FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CENTRAL BANK HEAD ON DOLLAR DEPOSIT RESTRICTIONS

PY160232 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Excerpt] The Central Bank might decide not to accept withdrawals of more than $1,500 from dollar deposit accounts, which have been blocked for 120 days. This was revealed by the president of the Central Bank, Alfredo Concepcion, in reference to disbursements that may be ordered by the court as a result of legal actions filed by depositors against the circular that blocks deposit withdrawals. Concepcion said that the bank would only release up to $1,500, regardless of the amount on deposit. He explained that once these deposits have been liberated after the 120 days, the depositors may be able to solve some of their problems and this will confirm the assurances given by the monetary authorities that dollar deposits would be respected.

FORD WORKERS END OCCUPATION PEACEFULLY

PY151316 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1040 GMT 14 Jul 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 14 Jul (TELAM) -- At 0530 today Ford Motor's Argentina workers ended their occupation of the company's General Pacheco plant in compliance with an order issued by San Isidro Federal Judge Carlos Valdez Weber, who based his decision on a Justice Ministry request. The workers peacefully left the 106-hectare plant, which was cordoned off by an impressive display of thousands of federal and Buenos Aires Province police troops. No incidents were reported.

Before leaving the plant, the delegates of the plant's internal committee and Judge Valdez signed a release stating that the plant's facilities were in perfect condition. The plant is now under Judge Valdez' authority.

Ford Issues Communique

PY151400 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1447 GMT 14 Jul 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jul (TELAM) -- This morning the Ford Motor Company of Argentina released a communique stating that its employees paid by the day [personal jornalizado] should not report to work until further notice, because of the occupation of the General Pacheco plant, which workers peacefully ended early this morning. Here is the text of the communique:

Ford Motors of Argentina hereby informs its employees paid by the day that because of the facts that are well known to the public, they will not resume work immediately. Therefore, they should not report to work until they are advised to do so through the mass media. In this regard, the company wants to point out that:

First, all efforts will be made to resume the work as soon as possible.

Second, steps are being taken to pay for the days worked in the second half of June. If no unforeseen situation arises, payment will be made before 18 July.

Third, a certain number of employees paid by the day will soon be called back to work to check the equipment and make it ready for operation.

The decision to issue the communique was made during a meeting company directors held this morning.

PARTIAL ELECTION RESULTS SHOW BANZER IN LEAD

PY151420 Paris AFP in Spanish 1332 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] La Paz, 15 Jul (AFP) -- Sources close to the National Electoral Court reported today that Hugo Banzer Suarez' Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN] was still leading with 519,613 votes counted 12 hours after the polls closed in Bolivia. The general situation is as follows:

Political parties	Votes	Percentage
Hugo Banzer Suarez ADN	202,313	38.9
Victor Paz Estenssoro Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR]	124,708	24.0
Jaime Paz Zamora Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR]	50,701	9.7
Roberto Jordan Pando Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI]	22,710	4.4
Ramiro Velasco Socialist Party One [PS-1]	14,031	2.7
Antonio Aranibar Quiroga United Peoples Front [FPU]	9,277	1.8
Carlos Serrate Reich 9 April Revolutionary Vanguard-MNR [MNR-V]	7,685	1.5
Luis Ossio Sanjines Christian Democratic Party	7,095	1.4
Void ballots	28,531	5.5
Blank ballots	26,080	5.0
Other parties	26,478	5.1

The National Electoral Court has reported that the official vote count will begin again within the next few hours, taking into account denunciations about alleged irregularities and observations made by different political parties and fronts.

Banzer Proclaims Himself Winner

PA160428 Paris AFP in Spanish 0213 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] La Paz, 15 Jul (AFP) -- During the first press conference that he has held since last Sunday's elections, General Hugo Banzer Suarez, leader of the Nationalist Democratic Action party (ADN), said here today: "I have won the elections." He said that according to unofficial computations by various news media, the ADN will receive 36 to 40 percent of the votes while Victor Paz Estenssoro of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) will receive 20 to 25 percent of the votes cast.

Banzer remarked: "This will amount to a difference of 150,000 votes in my favor. I expect my opponents to acknowledge this difference."

Banzer pointed out that human rights will be respected within the country's legal system and that his government's first measure will be to restore the authority of law. He advocated the renegotiation of Bolivia's $5-billion foreign debt and added that he will join efforts with other countries interested in paying the debt. Banzer announced that natural gas could be sold to Brazil after Bolivia sets aside the quantities required for its development.

Regarding foreign policy, he indicated that Bolivia will remain at equidistant between the big powers and will have relations with the United States and the Soviet Union with reciprocal respect. He said: There will be smooth relations with the EEC and the socialist countries that respect Bolivia's self-determination. He added that Bolivia must be part of the Nonaligned Movement, but within a framework of true nonalignment.

Finally, he said that the country will seek a solution to the problem of an outlet to the sea. Toward this end, the country will seek special negotiations with Chile.

ELECTIONS HELD IN 'COMPLETELY NORMAL' ATMOSPHERE

PY151434 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Excerpts] The 1985 general elections took place yesterday. Panamericana has had a hard task giving concrete reports on the partial results of the elections.

General Banzer Suarez seems to have won in La Paz, while the results in the provinces and in the rest of the departments were surprisingly diverse. For instance, the 9 April Revolutionary Vanguard-MNR [MNR-V] seems to be the virtual winner in the La Paz provinces of the high plateaus. The MIR is ahead in Chuquisaca with impressive results, particularly in the Tarabuco District. In turn, the leader in Tarija is the MNR.

Considering these partial results, which are not final or official, the great loser seems to be the Officialist Party. The Officialist candidate, Jordan Pando, won in some districts such as Huanuni and in the Yungas region. The Officialist Party will probably win the mining districts, which is socially significant but not important in the number of votes.

However, the great winners undoubtedly are the Bolivian people, who, despite everything, made yesterday's historic day possible. Panamericana would like to point out that the behavior of the citizens enabled the elections to be held in a completely normal atmosphere, overcoming organizational difficulties experienced by the departmental courts, which did not have enough time to organize properly.

Electoral Court To Study Charges

PY152013 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Excerpt] The National Electoral Court will make a thorough study of charges by different political and labor organizations on the elections. The abstention by a large sector of the population, which for some reason was unable to register for these elections, has provoked just protests and demands. Consulted on this, Information Minister Percy Camacho Flores has stated:

[Begin recording] The people have participated with great patriotism in these elections. Unfortunately, some political and labor organizations have made serious charges regarding irregularities recorded during the elections. I understand the National Electoral Court will make a thorough assessment of these denunciations. Notwithstanding these reports, it is appropriate to note the absence of a large number of citizens from the voting lists, and also the existence of a large number of void and blank votes, which must be interpreted as a definite trend among the voters. [end recording]

COB SAYS BANZER'S RETURN 'AFFRONT' TO NATION

PY151853 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Excerpt] The return of former President Hugo Banzer Suarez to the government, considering what he did during his previous term in office, would be an affront to the nation. This is the opinion expressed by the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] after hearing the partial election results. COB leader Jose Justiniano made this remark to the press. He added that a COB general meeting will probably set the basis for the policy to be implemented by this labor organization should the return of a fascist regime be confirmed.

FOREIGN RELATIONS UNDER SECRETARY RESIGNS

PY160159 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0105 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] La Paz, 15 Jul (TELAM-ANSA) -- Foreign Relations Under Secretary Jorge Crespo Velasco resigned today. He resigned 48 hours after Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho Omiste resigned.

Crespo Velasco's resignation is not only a demonstration of support for Camacho but is also in response to the disagreement that exists between the government and the Armed Forces over the recent establishment of relations with the PRC and the consequent breaking of diplomatic relations with Taiwan. The Armed Forces publicly demonstrated their disagreement by decorating Taiwan's representatives with the highest honors that can be granted.

In a letter to President Hernan Siles Zuazo, high-ranking officers have stated that the decision to establish relations with the PRC should have been left to the new government.

This is the reason the former minister resigned. He has been replaced for the time being by Interior Minister Gustavo Sanchez.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES APPEAL FOLLOWING VIOLENT ATTACK

PY122023 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Jul 85

[Recorded passages in quotation marks]

[Excerpts] Government Secretary General Francisco Xavier Cuadra reported that there have been a total of 16 terrorist attacks throughout the country in the past few hours.

"Yesterday, there were several incendiary or explosive attacks in the following places: Santiago -- 8 attacks; Antofagasta -- 3 attacks; La Serena -- 2 attacks; and 1 attack each in Talca, Concepcion, and Tome. Two of the attacks in Antofagasta and La Serena were against the Mormon Church."

Cuadra gave details of the attacks that occurred in Santiago, particularly the more serious ones.

"In Santiago there was some minor disorder that forced police to arrest 26 persons. The most serious incident in Santiago yesterday occurred in the San Miguel community at the intersection of Santa Rosa and Varas Mena at 2206, when a Carabineros bus transporting personnel to control the street disorder in that sector of the city was attacked."

The government secretary general reasserted the government charges that this is all part of a violent escalation campaign promoted by the Communist Party with the objective of creating widespread disorder.

"All these incidents, the minor disturbances, the attack against the Carabineros bus, the incendiary and bomb attacks that have occurred throughout the country are all part of a violent campaign that was called for by the Communist Party in April. Moreover, they are all part of the social mobilization strategy to create disorder and chaos. Yesterday's incidents were perfectly synchronized with those that occurred on 10 July, particularly with the incidents at the Arturo Alessandri School in Santiago. Here students from over five Santiago schools violently occupied the school building and disrupted classes."

After reporting on the overall situation, Cuadra issued an appeal on behalf of the government. This call is addressed to the public and to the moderate opposition.

"In this regard, the government calls on the public to be well aware of this situation, and it also calls on the moderate opposition to define their position regarding this plan that is being carried out in our country by the communists."

BELAUNDE ON ACHIEVEMENTS, EFFORTS, TERRORISM

PA160421 Paris AFP in Spanish 0302 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] Lima, 15 July (AFP) -- President Fernando Belaunde Terry admitted tonight "with courage and truthfulness" that his administration has not been able to solve the problem of terrorist subversion in Peru. During his last press conference before turning over power to his successor, American Revolutionary Popular Alliance leader Alan Garcia, in 13 days, Belaunde said he hopes the new government will be able to solve the problem. He also said that his administration inherited the problem when he came to power in July 1980, but the country has been facing an economic crisis which has thus far prevented the use of enough resources to develop the backward zones where Shining Path has flourished.

Belaunde claimed that terrorism "is being financed and organized from abroad, not by the treasury of any country or government, but by drug trafficking." "In certain areas children and youths are forced to dismember animals so that they become familiar with torture, suffering, and agony," he said.

He added that the Armed Forces have managed to partially achieve peace in the region of Ayacucho, southeast Andean department, which is considered a Shining Path stronghold.

Belaunde said that he will deliver to the country over radio and television next Monday his last message concerning the activities of this administration which is now ending. In addition, he discussed Alan Garcia's intentions to propose a disarmament agreement to the Latin American countries, asserting that leaders and statesmen have theoretically accepted the idea but it has not been possible to implement it even though there have been no grave tensions in the region. He said that integration might be the road to overcome the matter, adding that his government has promoted three initiatives: the integration of river transportation and energy resources; the use of a common coin that will allow the use of the Andean peso in all the Andean group countries; and the free transit of persons from the subregion, comprised of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. He mentioned that last month Peru unilaterally eliminated the need for a visa to citizens from other Andean countries who visit Peru, hoping that the idea will be imitated.

Belaunde also said that Peru currently has an estimated foreign debt in excess of $13 billion, compared with the $8 billion debt when he came to power in 1980. He added that during the 5 years of his administration approximately $6 billion were paid in amortization and interest.

U.S. CONSULATE IN LIMA ATTACKED; NO CASUALTIES

PY151530 Paris AFP in Spanish 1454 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Lima, 15 Jul (AFP) -- The police reported here today that a Civil Guard member died and another was wounded in a clash with about 100 terrorists who yesterday attacked the police post in the town of Retama, La Libertad Department, to the north of Lima. The subversive group, heavily armed with submachine guns and hand grenades, surprised the 10 men who were in the police post in Huamachuco Province, and after a long shootout the attackers retreated. The source said that several of the subversives were wounded and taken away by their comrades. Police reinforcements have left for Retama, an isolated provincial town, and no details of the attack are available.

Meanwhile, last night a subversive commando machine-gunned the U.S. Consulate in the Lima district of Miraflores, causing some damage to the windows and walls of the building, but no casualties, the police reported. Eyewitnesses said that two hooded individuals armed with submachine guns stepped out of a red car without number plates and fired bursts of bullets against the consulate building, which at that time had no police guards.

Two days after the simultaneous attacks on five police stations in various Lima districts and with only 2 weeks left before the transfer of presidential power, subversive escalation continues, despite the fact that the police forces are on a state of red alert.

PRISON RIOTS CONTINUE; TWO HOSTAGES HELD

PY151520 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0215 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] The riots that began yesterday by terrorists jailed in El Fronton, Santa Barbara, and Lurigancho Prisons remain unresolved. This afternoon the prison authorities failed to convince the inmates to give up their illegal action. In Santa Barbara Prison, the situation is uncertain. However, a new contingent of republican guards left this afternoon for El Fronton to guarantee the security of the prison personnel. Moreover, the rioters are holding one hostage and have a machine gun seized from one of the guards. In Lurigancho, other prisoners have tried to convince the rioting terrorists to give up their action, warning them that should they persist the common prisoners will rescue the hostage they are holding.

TUPAC AMARU CLAIMS POLICE STATION ATTACKS

PY151545 Paris AFP in Spanish 1325 GMT 14 Jul 85

[Text] Lima, 14 Jul (AFP) -- In a communique sent to the media today, the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) has claimed responsibility for the attacks against six police precints in various Lima districts on the evening of 12 July. That night, the police stations of Yerbateros and El Agustino in the western part of the city, Villa El Salvador in the south, Mirones in the west, and Naranjal and Carabayllo in the north were attacked with FAL rifle fire and homemade bombs. The attacks caused damage to the buildings, and three civilians who happened to be near one of the police stations were injured. A public transport vehicle was also hit, but no passengers were hurt. Last night the police identified the attackers as MRTA terrorists.

This is the first time that the MRTA, a subversive movement that began its activities sometime in the middle of last year, has claimed responsibility for coordinate attacks against the police. Before this it has been involved in occasional shootouts and has occupied radio stations to broadcast its messages. It has interrupted television programs for the same purpose. The MRTA, unlike the hermetic Shining Path, publicly announces its actions, but it has not defined its doctrine. This time it said that it had attacked the police for having become servants of the interests and whims of the powerful and a scourge of the people.

COCAINE 'NARCOTERRORIST' RING BROKEN UP

PY151608 Paris AFP in Spanish 2000 GMT 13 Jul 85

[Text] Lima, 13 Jul (AFP) -- A organized gang of "narcoterrorists" -- drug traffickers who finance terrorism -- with international connections, which had processed and sold cocaine base paste worth more than $5 million over the past 2 years, has been broken up by the police in Arequipa, 1,000 km south of Lima, it was officially reported today.

Departmental Investigative Police Chief General Francisco Vila Esquiche reported that on 12 July a 70-man brigade raided a huge cocaine hydrochloride and base paste processing plant located on a 5,000-sq-meter lot in Colorado District, on the outskirts of the city. According to the source, poultry and pigs were raised in the area to conceal the plant's operation. He added that, among other things, the following items were seized: 600 kg of green leaves in maceration, a large amount of cocaine hydrochloride and base paste, 60 kerosene containers, a complete laboratory, and boxes of dynamite.

Juan Huaman, 29, and Cristina Apaza, both linked with the escape of women serving sentences for subversion from the local prison 3 years ago, were arrested. They said that the plant is owned by Daniel Apaza Huaman, who is at large and who has financed terrorists operating in the central region of the country. The gang, which sold large amounts of cocaine to international crime organizations whose envoys came from Colombia, the United States, and Europe, was linked with the Shining Path. Police found letters addressed to leaders of this extremist organization. The identity of these leaders was not disclosed.

General Vila Esquiche said that according to an initial investigation, the gang has been operating for 3 years, and that the detainees said that the gang has financed terrorists operating in the Andean central region (Huancayo, Huancavelica, Huanuco).

The police also reported that a large amount of subversive propaganda and dynamite with detonators was found at the plant. In view of this, investigations will be intensified over the entire southeastern Andean region to discover the procedures and connections between drug traffickers and terrorists.

MIRAGE-5 AIRCRAFT FLEET BEING MODERNIZED

PY151739 Paris AFP in Spanish 0416 GMT 12 Jul 85

[Text] Lima, 12 Jul (AFP) -- Peru is modernizing the fleet of French-made Mirage-5 aircraft it brought in 1966, Colonel Wilson Urteaga, the head of the Peruvian Air Force [FAP] maintenance department, said today. The modernization basically covers the upgrading of the inertial navigation system, the computerized firing system, and other modern equipment items, he said.

Urteaga added that Peru has a testing facility for high-thrust jet engines, the only such facility in this part of the continent, which helps reduce maintenance costs. France charges approximately $400,000 for the repair and maintenance of a Mirage, while with Peruvian technology the cost is $80,000, he added. That is why an agreement has been reached with Argentina for the provision of those services. Other agreements will also be reached with Venezuela, Colombia, and Brazil for the same purpose, he explained.

Urteaga announced that on 23 September, the anniversary of the crossing of the Alps by Peruvian pilot Jorge Chavez, a Peruvian pilot will reenact that deed with an aircraft identical to the one used by Chavez that is being built at the FAP Las Palmas Base in Lima.

PRESIDENT SAYS NATIONAL DIALOGUE WILL CONTINUE

PA122211 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jul 85

[Text] President Nicolas Ardito Barletta announced today that the national dialogue will continue with all the national sectors that wish to participate.

[Begin recording] [Ardito Barletta] I am absolutely sure and confident that the constructive dialogue we have begun on specific issues concerning the solution of the economic and social problems the country is facing will continue because that is what the Panamanian people want. With common sense, faith, and teamwork, I am sure we can find the adequate formulas to solve the problems that are affecting our economy in general.

I am sure that the people are going to respond to my call. We have had positive reactions from businessmen, workers, and farmers. I am confident that the dialogue with these sectors will continue, but if they decide not to participate, then I will continue the dialogue with the Panamanian people to try to solve the problems. However, I am sure that the dialogue will continue as we have planned, and during our talks and in the exchange of views in a respectful, frank, and open manner, we are going to find the formulas we need to bring together the policies we have been preparing that will stimulate the Panamanian people to find solutions to our problems.

[Reporter] Mr President, when will this meeting with all the national sectors take place?

[Ardito Barletta] Probably this Saturday [13 July]. [end recording]

CONATO MAY REJOIN TALKS; TWO LEADERS WITHDRAW

PA151619 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] Martin Gonzalez, coordinator of the National Council of Organized Labor [Conato] told this newspaper yesterday afternoon that Conato may rejoin the "national dialogue" because the differences between the executive branch and Conato were overcome when Nagely Herrera, who represented the transportation sector, and Julio Cesar Pinzon, who represented the Isthmian Workers Federation, declined to participate in the talks. The differences arose when President Nicolas Ardito Barletta tried to impose labor representatives on Conato.

Gonzalez said that if Conato goes to the negotiations table it will demand that the president disclose the "letter of intent."

"We agree with the request made by the National Council of Private Enterprise that the letter of intent must definitively be revealed because it contains the commitments [the country] has made to international banks," the coordinator said.

Gonzalez added: "If the government truly wants the talks, it must disclose and make public the commitments it has made to international banks."

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ TALKS OF RESIGNING AFTER OAS FINDING

PA160241 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said that he will resign the day President Monge no longer trusts him. I became foreign minister in May 1982 with the commitment to stay with President Luis Alberto Monge throughout his term, but the moment the president no longer has confidence in me he will relieve me of this commitment. Gutierrez made the statement when referring to rumors about his possible resignation as a result of what has been described as a foreign policy failure at the OAS.

Gutierrez added that all the cabinet ministers submitted resignations in mid-1984 and none of them has been withdrawn and therefore, if President Monge accepts his resignation, he will gladly go home. I fulfilled my obligations at the OAS Permanent Council, Gutierrez said. Regarding the results at the OAS Permanent Council last week, when the report of the commission that investigated the incidents at the border area of Las Crucitas became known, Gutierrez said: I did my duty. I did all I could.

[Words indistinct] the foreign minister said that all of his efforts at the OAS Permanent Council were consulted with and approved by President Monge. However, he noted, I accept full responsibility for the developments at the OAS. He reiterated, however, that the outcome was not as many have tried to make it appear. It was not a defeat, but not a victory either, for Costa Rica. That's all that could be done.

EL SALVADOR

ANDA PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES END OF STRIKE

PA151629 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0330 GMT 11 Jul 85

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Jul (ACAN-EFE) -- The strike by workers of the National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers [ANDA] ended several days ago, ANDA President Jose Ricardo Perdomo announced today. The ANDA president said in a press conference that the institution's 3,300 workers are at work as usual, after a solution was found to a labor conflict that lasted more than a month.

Perdomo said that 126 ANDA workers are responsible for street demonstrations and other disturbances staged to prevent workers from performing normally. These people were fired by the institution after the government declared the strike illegal. Perdomo reported that ANDA workers are being threatened by the former employees, "to the point that some of them have been beaten."

Perdomo said that this morning, when the work teams were getting ready to start operations, "they were intercepted by a group of individuals, some of whom were armed." "I am still being threatened, as are the supervisors and employees. We have been informed that the strikers have been infiltrated by rebel groups," Perdomo said.

ANDA labor union sources informed ACAN-EFE that over 2,000 ANDA workers are still on strike and that many employees who had gone back to work had done so "under pressure from management."

Perdomo flatly denied this statement, and said that at the end of the month, ANDA will start 90 projects to provide potable water to depressed areas.

ESA SENTENCES 11 UNIVERSITY MEMBERS TO DEATH

PA141539 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Jul 85

[Text] We want to read you a communique issued to the media by the Secret Anticommunist Army [ESA]:

In view of the National University's current situation the National Liberation Party [PLN] and its armed branch, ESA, states that the critical situation at the university is the result of the bad political decision to turn over its installations to the same clique that is now leading it because it is common knowledge that this clique is committed to and a member of the Communist Party of El Salvador [PCES], despite all of the publicity it has always used to deny this position. However, the information contained in our records allows us to have background on its members, their student life, their visits to communist countries, their contacts, and so forth. In view of this new aggression they plan to carry out at the National University, accompanied by student and labor sectors that follow the orders of the enemies of our peoples, such as the FMLN and FDR, the democratic response of the people must be felt.

The PLN and its armed branch, ESA, states the communique, will not permit the enemies of education and culture to continue to grasp control of the university. To this effect, we have carried out summary proceedings on those students, faculty members, and workers who pretend to be the redeemers of the liberation of our peoples. The students [as heard] are Rufino Antonio Quesada, known as Chino, an agronomy student and an Armed Liberation Forces [FAL], militant; Jorge Gomez, known for his artistic group (La Chinche), a student of science and humanity, and a militant of the People's Liberation Forces [FPL]; Manuel de Jesus Benitez, known as El Loco, a student of economy and a militant of the People's Revolutionary Army [ERP]; Rodolfo Rosales Lee, known as Seco Rosales, a student of medicine and a militant of the FPL; Narciso de la Cruz Mendoza, known as Chicho; he and his puppets criticize and mock the democratic process and our glorious Armed Forces in their artistic presentations instead of conveying a cultural message; Miguel Angel Joya, a worker, law student, and militant of the ERN [expansion unknown]; Rolando Abrego, a worker, law student, and militant of the National Resistance [RN]; Ana Julia Orellana, a worker of the School of Odontology and a militant of the RN, Sara (Lowa de Dubon), a faculty member of the School of Humanities and a veteran militant of the People's Liberation Forces; Omar Castillo, also a faculty member of the School of Humanities and an FPL militant; and Pablo de Jesus Castro, a secretary of the School of Humanities and an FPL militant.

All of these traitors of the people, states the communique released to the media in the past few minutes, have been sentenced to death and we give them until Saturday, 20 July, to take whatever steps are necessary. As of that date, our military pistols will enforce the execution order. Subsequently, after achieving our 11 objectives, we will continue summary proceedings that involve the labor and student sectors which belong to the SCER [expansion unknown]. This procedure will be applied to all university authorities, officials, and members of the University Superior Council and University General Assembly in the same manner until we eradicate, once and for all, all the communists who are again taking control of the university and using it as a haven for subversion.

The communique concluded by stating that we congratulate our heroic combatants of the Armed Forces who risk their lives every day to defend our sovereignty and the integrity of our national territory. We have begun our own military campaign of extermination until we totally defeat all of the FMLN communists.

From somewhere in San Salvador, 12 July 1985.

[Signed] Commander Aquiles Baires, responsible for the ESA Military Political Commission

We struggle yesterday, today, tomorrow, and always!

Government Condemns Threats

PA141542 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1850 GMT 13 Jul 85

[By Cristina Hasbun de Merino]

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Jul (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Salvadoran Government rejected threats by an ultrarightist clandestine organization that claims it is going to kill 11 university members, including faculty, students, and workers.

A communique from the Information Secretariat of the Presidency reports that "the government flatly repudiates the statements by the extreme rightist terrorist group, the self-styled Secret Anticommunist Army (ESA), which sentenced 11 members of the National University to death." The document notes that the statement by ESA can be accepted only by those who are opposed to the justice of law and that the attitude of that organization "just as that assumed by the extreme leftist terrorists, constitutes the most absolute negation of human rights."

ESA released a communique to the media yesterday setting 20 July as the deadline for 11 university members "to take whatever steps are necessary" or they will be executed. ESA accused the authorities of the University of El Salvador of belonging to the Communist Party of El Salvador, one of the five groups that comprise the FMLN. In its communique the Salvadoran Government states that members of the ESA should also be tracked down by justice and tried by the appropriate tribunals.

"In that regard," the government communique added, "an appeal is reiterated to the sectors that want to defend life, peace, and democracy to denounce those death squads which, under the cloak of anticommunism, want to keep the people mired in a climate of hate, violence, confrontation, and terror." It added that "one cannot permit extremist groups of any ideology to assume the right to judge or terrorize and assassinate citizens who have political views that are opposed to theirs or for any other motive."

"We are committed to this democratic process and must make an effort among all of the sectors of national life to assume attitudes that are within the framework of legality," the communique by the Information Secretariat added. It concluded that the government reiterates its determination to fight crime and terrorism within the framework of the laws, and therefore "condemns the criminal actions of ESA and other terrorist groups and recalls that all of those who wish to live in democracy must contribute to finding those responsible for such heinous actions against the people."

UPD DEMANDS INVESTIGATION OF DESTABILIZING ACTIONS

PA121342 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Jul 85

[Report by Alberto Barrera]

[Text] The Democratic Popular Unity [UPD] revealed that the American Institute for Free Labor Development [AIFLD] has been given a 30-day deadline to investigate the rumors and charges of alleged aid to and the financing of so-called destabilizing actions against the country's democratic process. Members of the UPD's political committee, led by Secretary General Ramon Alcides Mendoza, held a press conference today in which they gave details regarding the first national congress held by delegates last Saturday in San Salvador.

It was reported that one of the agreements approved at the congress was to reassert the pledge concerning the social pact signed with the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and to demand strict adherence to it. The congress also issued a call to the Salvadoran people for unity and solidarity in the struggle for their rights, and demanded a national dialogue for peace. In addition, the brother workers in the United States are asked, based on these guidelines, to carefully review the dangerous destabilizing actions carried out against our democratic process and democratic labor unions in El Salvador by paid agents of the AIFLD in order to purge its leadership and membership and eliminate the corrupt AIFLD members, as the Salvadoran workers have done with their own organizations. In addition, the Salvadoran Government and the U.S. Embassy, particularly the U.S. AID, are asked to review the policy of these agents, which is considered improper, and the embezzlement of funds -- once and for all reviewing the organizations that destabilize the Salvadoran democratic process. The congress also asks international workers' organizations, particularly the Ieiofl [expansion unknown], not to turn their backs on the free Salvadoran workers call, and to reject the corrupt, obsolete, and manipulating agents who create dummy organizations such as the so-called Democratic Workers Central to betray the Salvarodan democratic process, and the former exploiters, murderers, and executioners of our people.

Furthermore, the congress reasserts its peaceful efforts and staunch decision to struggle for the downtrodden in El Salvador. In addition, during the press conference the political committee was asked what they mean by actions to destabilize the Salvadoran democratic process and [word indistinct] mentioned specifically the case of the [words indistinct] and gave names of persons reportedly involved in this; namely Roberto Gonzalez Castro, known as Tito Castro; and Salvador Carazo, Samuel Maldonado, and Cristobal Aleman, who reportedly planned to destroy organizations such as the Association of Cooperatives of Integrated Agricultural-Livestock Products [Accpai], the National Association of Salvadoran Indians [ANIS], and the Central Organization of Salvadoran Workers [CTS]. They also denounced the fact that these men have been employed and receiving a good salary while distorting the democratic process. They are currently negotiating an agreement between the [word indistinct] and Mr Hugo Barrera to organize the Free Fatherland Party, as reported by [word indistinct].

Jose Orlando Arevalo, secretary for conflicts, also participated in the press conference. He revealed that the AFL-CIO has been given a 30-day deadline to carry out an investigation in our country.

[Begin recording] On 6 July the UPD congress agreed that the AFL-CIO would be given 30 days to investigate the rumors and charges that workers unity is being affected and, from that viewpoint, also undermines the democratic process that we support in our country.

Following the 30-day deadline, and if an answer is not received, the UPD will have to decide on new actions that might even lead to asking the government to cancel the U.S. institute's permit so that it does not send aid to El Salvador because it is not intended for the workers. However, if the U.S. institute's policy is to definitely support Hugo Barrera through Maldonado, Tito Castro and the others, we feel that the institute is placing itself in a different position and has become an enemy of this organization and the downtrodden workers in El Salvador. [passage indistinct]

Referring to the UPD's request that Samuel Maldonado be removed from the post of Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation [ISTA] president, Ramon Aristides Mendoza, the new secretary general of that organization, said the following:

[Begin recording] [Mendoza] Well, given the situation, I think that the government has already adopted a measure just as the UPD adopted a resolution some days ago. We think it will not be long before the government decides what to do with ISTA. Of course, through its congress the UPD reiterated that it will demand the fulfillment of social pacts. We will not break the pact; however, if the government wants to break the pact this is a different matter. Our pledge is to present the list of candidates which we have already done on two previous occasions.

[Question indistinct]

[Mendoza] We could say that there have probably been other more important posts in the government cabinet that were probably negotiated. Perhaps that is why they have not been able to solve this organization's case. We feel that it is already being reviewed at certain government levels, such as ministers, deputy ministers, and presidents of more important autonomous organizations, and the proper measures are probably being taken to solve the other problem. [end recording]

NEW CLANDESTINE GROUP ANNOUNCES MISSION

PA141339 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 11 Jul 85 p 3

[Text] A new clandestine organization that describes itself as "Ghost Busters" ["Caza Fantasmas"] Commandos has sent a handwritten letter to this newspaper's director and asked him to publish the letter in its entirety. The letter follows:

Mr Director, EL MUNDO newspaper

We wish you success in your work. This letter is to ask you to include in your newspaper a communique addressed, through the national press and other news media, by the Ghost Busters Commandos to those up in arms and new groups that are being formed. The Armed Forces are not alone. Our commandos in formation, former soldiers and civilians, are willing to defend our democracy and our country from the international communism that has infiltrated our country. The Armed Forces and the peace-loving people will fight them. Our mission is to persecute, investigate, and deliver ghosts to any security organization. We are neither combatants nor politicians. We are concerned about terrorists, drug traffickers, pickpockets, and all those who are a danger to citizens and the national security. Our commandos do not fight with arms but are willing to defend ourselves if necessary. Forward, Armed Forces! The Ghost Busters are with you! Long live the Salvadoran Army! Hail to those who have fallen in combat! We will tell you all that occurs.

Ghost Busters No 1! The Ghost Busters with the Army! The Ghost Busters for the Salvadoran people!

San Salvador, 8 July 1985

PRTC ANNOUNCES DEATH OF COMMANDER ARLEN

PA160104 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Communique released by the Political Commission of the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers [PRTC]; date and place not given]

[Text] We report to our people that Commander Arlen, member of the PRTC Central Committee, has been killed in combat. The route to victory is built with our people's indestructible will. Commander Arlen was a genuine expression of the people fighting for liberation. Commander Arlen made important contributions to our process in the eastern area, in Guazapa and San Vicente. Until her death fighting for the people's cause, she was the political and military officer responsible for the PRTC forces in the east region. She had been entrusted with this task by our Central Committee. Our party, its militants, and its organizations have yet another cause for inspiration to continue stepping up the revolutionary war, of which Arlen was an exemplary leader.

Her example expressed the fundamental role that Salvadoran women have played in the construction of the FMLN's vanguard and the attainment of progress in the people's war that extends along the country and shakes the foundations of oppression by trusting its own strategic rear. This is how the unity of the revolutionary organizations that form the FMLN is nourished through the story of the struggle and total surrender of the best sons of the people. Here is the raison d'etre of our decisive victory. Commander Arlen, until we achieve victory. Commander Arlen, you will be present in our battles. United to fight until the final victory! Revolution or death, we will win!

[Signed] Commander Roberto Roca, secretary general of the PRTC Central Committee and Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] commander in chief

FMLN NAMES 5TH FRONT 'PEDRO PABLO CASTILLO'

PA142234 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 13 July 85

[Text] Attention, close attention, Salvadoran people. Attention, close attention. The FMLN General Command has determined that as of today, 13 July, the combative fifth war front, formed by our companeros who are political prisoners, will be known as the Pedro Pablo Castillo Front. Through this name, we acknowledge the courageous and heroic struggle of hundreds of political prisoners, brothers who have turned their imprisonment into a trench for the revolution. The name of Pedro Pablo Castillo is linked to the people's struggle for independence from the colonial yoke. Pedro Pablo Castillo is the name of the patriot who fought during the struggle for independence alongside the people's rank and file and surrendered his life for the people's freedom. It is not impossible to breach prisons. Long live the Pedro Pablo Castillo Fifth War Front! Companeros political prisoners, your struggle and that of the people will achieve your freedom!

FMLN ON POSSIBLE ARMY ACTIONS AGAINST NICARAGUA

PA130206 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Jul 85

[Text] Generals are generally like this. Napoleon Duarte's Defense Minister General Vides Casanova gave the Armed Forces' annual report on 9 July.

Vides' account of the main problems faced by the Salvadoran Army was so weak and evasive that national and international reporters had to seek replies to unanswered questions from Gen Vides Casanova at an impromptu press conference.

For example, since Vides' report only mentioned the great victories of the Armed Forces, without mentioning any military blows against the FMLN guerrilla forces, the reporters asked the minister what has been the most important military blow the Armed Forces dealt against the guerrillas. His reply was that the Armed Forces have supported the democratic process.

What an honest reply, Gen Vides Casanova! It is indeed the truth. The Armed Forces cannot mention any effective blow against our guerrilla forces. Contrary to that, we could give a long list of effective blows against the puppet Army during the past year. The list would include so many victories that it would be impossible to determine which one was more important.

Vides Casanova's reply that his most important military blow has been his support for what Duarte calls democratic process, can only refer to the fact that Gen Vides Casanova used the entire Army to guarantee Duarte and the Christian Democracy's electoral victory. If Vides Casanova was referring to that "heroic" military action of filling out dozens of electoral lists and thousands of ballots, the only pending question is: What kind of electoral process was he referring to, since his own officers and political parties questioned those elections, which the puppet Armed Forces so firmly supported?

Every year the defense minister has presented to the national and international public war reports that try to hide the amount of human suffering experienced by the Armed Forces. However, this year, in his latest report, Gen Vides Casanova overdid it in an effort to conceal and hide the number of casualties. According to Eugenio Vides Casanova, the number of casualties sustained by the Armed Forces during the past 12 months was 2,834, including dead, wounded, and missing. This figure is so ridiculous that no one believes it. However, there is another figure in the defense minister's report that draws attention. Vides Casanova said that 3,068 members of the Armed Forces were dismissed due to lack of military discipline. [Word indistinct] a consequence of not obeying the order to not get close to guerrilla camps? Could it be that these 3,000 plus are dead soldiers because they did not listen to their superiors, who warned them not to step on any guerrilla mine? Do those casualties show that there are still units that can successfully apply the hit-and-run tactics that now prevail in the Army's operations and patrolling? If we add up the two categories of casualties given by Gen Vides Casanova to justify the losses and attrition undermining his army, then perhaps we are getting closer to the real figures for casualties sustained by the Armed Forces during the past 12 months. In other words, we would have to add together the 2,834 casualties and the 3,000 soldiers who, according to Vides Casanova, were dismissed due to their lack of discipline.

Another topic that Vides Casanova of course did not mention in his report, and about which journalists persistently asked him, was on the famous war plans against Nicaragua, which General Oneciforo Blandon, Armed Forces chief of staff, reported to the press the day before. Vides Casanova had to admit that his staff is making plans for war, that the Salvadoran Army, with the Honduran Army, would wage against our Nicaraguan brothers. Apparently, the Salvadoran generals are already showing grave signs of weariness as a result of the years of war, in which one military plan after the other is defeated by the people and their guerrilla forces.

Or is it that the gorillas top command prefer to play with plans from other make-believe wars in order to forget the sad truth about this very war, which they are about to lose? No doubt it would be playing with fire, considering the U.S. plans to drag the entire Central American area and the respective peoples and armies into a regional war before allowing and accepting social changes in this region.

At any rate one thing is clear: If Generals Blandon and Vides Casanova undertake a venture of this type, such as attacking the Nicaraguan people, they would bring on their own short, swift, and final defeat. How does an army such as this one, that cannot stop the advances of the guerrilla forces despite huge Yankee military aid, expect to win or think it will win a war against a people in arms such as the Nicaraguan people? What would happen is very clear. Part of the puppet Army would quickly bleed to death, and the rest would meet a swift defeat at the hands of the FMLN's forces.

When the news media insisted on the impossibility of simultaneously waging two wars, considering the Army cannot win even one war, Vides Casanova replied that the Salvadoran Army is the best trained and most capable in Latin America. Mr Vides Casanova, your Army may be the best trained in Latin America, but only in assaulting civilian hospitals and dislodging and massacring civilians. In short, if that is the idea, then the Salvadoran Army is champion, but, regarding its military victories, Vides Casanova preferred not to say a single word.

GUATEMALA

BASIC GRAIN EXPORTS TO NICARAGUA HALTED

PA151521 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Jul 85

[Text] Guatemala will no longer export basic grains to Nicaragua. The Agriculture Ministry has announced that it will not process requests for the export of Guatemalan basic grains, mainly beans and corn, to Nicaragua. No attention will be given to requests for those exports to any country [as heard], said Agriculture Minister Juan Humberto Mancru Donis, commenting on international reports about Guatemalan sales to Nicaragua.

NICARAGUA

PA150432 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Jul 85

[Text] Last night hundreds of mothers of heroes and martyrs, as well as soldiers in the Patriotic Military Service [SMP], participated in the first regional meeting of mothers with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president. During this activity, carried out at the Maestro Gabriel National Institute under the slogan "Sons, We Will Resist and Win Like You Did," the mothers gathered together like a fist and presented to President Ortega and government cabinet members their problems, suggestions, and questions about seeking a solution. One of the most heartfelt problems presented by the mothers of heroes and martyrs is their economic pension, and they requested a reevaluation. This was accepted and will be done in August.

In addition, the mothers of fighters presented some complaints concerning problems faced when they go to the SMP zonal office to ask about their sons but receive no answer. Consequently, they requested better service from the corresponding officials. After the mothers concluded their participation, President Ortega addressed them as follows:

[Begin recording] The Nicaraguan people are the ones most interested in preventing bloodshed for the Nicaraguan people -- the mothers, families, government, and FSLN -- and all the efforts being exerted in the diplomatic sector and during battles against the counterrevolutionary forces is an effort [rephrases] are all efforts so that there is no more bloodshed for the Nicaraguan people.

The sooner we defeat the mercenary forces, the sooner there will be no need to continue mobilizing the fighters to the battlefront. There will no more risks, so fighters will not continue to die. It is a fact because, mark my words, when the U.S. aggression started against this government, the militia members from the cities marched to the war front even though they still had no technical or military preparation. They came from different cities and were all different ages. Eviction of the counter-revolutionaries cost a lot in lives, wounded, and dead. We have overcome the situation in time. How did we overcome this? Through the SMP. [applause] Thousands of youths have joined the SMP and Nicaragua can now count on a formidable defense force, a formidable defense force to fight the mercenary forces and to defeat the mercenary forces, without suffering as many casualties as we did in the beginning when the militias were sent. The Army's current casualties, the casualties among the fighters who join the Army through the SMP, are increasingly fewer. We are withstanding a situation of sorrow and suffering, and we share the mothers' sorrow and suffering. However, amidst the suffering and sorrow, the optimism and happiness are stronger because our heroes and martyrs would not like to see us sad all the time. They would like to see us struggling with optimism and happiness, confident that we will continue to advance. You, heroic mothers, are an example of sacrifice. You are also examples of optimism and happiness. [end recording]

RAMIREZ COMMENTS ON FOREIGN DEBT, U.S. ACTIONS

PA152319 Paris AFP in Spanish 2029 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Managua, Nicaragua, 15 Jul (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez said today that the Latin American foreign debt, which is over $35 billion, is "unpayable." Speaking before the foreign press, Ramirez said that the Latin American countries should reach a "joint hemispheric stand" in order to solve the problem of the debt, which he described as "a monster." To this effect, he emphasized the stands adopted in recent weeks by Cuban President Fidel Castro and Peruvian President-elect Alan Garcia.

Castro recommended calling a strike of debtors, while Garcia has insisted that prior to fulfilling their foreign obligations, the Latin American countries should first worry about solving the heavy economic and social problems that affect them in the domestic field. "We are willing to support the stand of Garcia once he takes office later this month," Ramirez pointed out.

The vice president said that the Nicaraguan debt that runs over $4 billion is "unmanageable," pointing out that for this year alone servicing the debt would have amounted to approximately $700 million. "Although we would like to pay these obligations, it would be insane, because our exports barely amount to $400 million," he emphasized.

On another topic, Ramirez said Nicaragua insists on the need to resume the bilateral talks with the United States in Manzanillo "as soon as possible, without conditions and without a prearranged agenda. This idea is supported by the Latin American countries, and we are interested in obtaining a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Central American crisis," he stated.

Commenting on Nicaragua's inclusion in a list of countries that Washington says are part of an alleged "terrorist bloc," Ramirez warned that it is a "dangerous, fragile, and desperate" recourse of the Reagan administration. It is an "arbitrary" position by Reagan, without any evidence to substantiate it, he added. Asked about the possibility of a Nicaragua being bombed, Ramirez said, "I believe that all options are open to Reagan."

However, he noted that any action of a military nature that Washington decides to launch against Nicaragua "would be unfortunate, because politically it would turn against them."

Pointing out that there are "200,000 rifles to repel an intervention," according to official statements, he warned that this would mean the United States would have to use 600,000 men if it decides to occupy Nicaragua. "This would turn out to be a political defeat for them, because it would be incomprehensible for U.S. public opinion," he stated.

Ramirez said that the recent OAS resolution on a border incident with Costa Rica does not signify "a defeat" for either of the two countries. Furthermore, he believes it would be "unfortunate" if talks are not initiated between the two countries to discuss the Nicaraguan proposal to establish a demilitarized zone on the common border. Nicaragua, he said, views with satisfaction the participation of Spain, the Scandinavian countries and the rest of Europe in this project. If we manage to create this zone, Nicaragua would also be interested in promoting a similar plan with Honduras in the northern part of the country, he said.

Ramirez said that the principal achievement of the Sandinists in 6 years has been to consolidate the revolutionary power under the principles of a mixed economy, nonalignment, and political pluralism. However, he regretted that as a result of the war they have not been able to develop the economic plan that the Sandinists initially set out to achieve after overthrowing the Somozist dictatorship in July 1979.

HUMBERTO ORTEGA ON DISTRIBUTING WEAPONS TO PEOPLE

PA150457 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Jul 85

[Text] More than 200,000 weapons were given by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] to the people for the defense of the country, considering the imminent U.S. invasion, according to Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega during the ceremony to promote several EPS officers held this Saturday to commemorate the sixth anniversary.

More then 200,000 weapons have been given to the people in an organized way so they may assume the defense of their sovereignty and self-determination, said Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega, referring to the mercenary aggression and a possible U.S. invasion during a ceremony to promote 400 EPS officers who received their insignia as deputy commanders, captains, first lieutenants, lieutenants, and second lieutenants.

Humberto Ortega asserted that the mercenary forces are being defeated, and he urged everyone to continue their efforts for the final defeat. The event, held at the Plaza of the Revolution, was presided over by President Daniel Ortega, Vice President Sergio Ramirez, Interior Minister Tomas Borge, Commander Victor Tirado, and members of the EPS General Staff.

During his speech, the defense minister asserted that the threats of a direct U.S. aggression make it necessary to increase the country's defensive measures to turn Nicaragua into a fortress. In addition, Ortega gave his recognition to the youths fulfilling the patriotic military service in Battalions for Unconventional Warfare as well as the border guard troops, pilots, naval forces, and peasants in the war zones.

Also, Msgr Jose Arias Caldera, the bishop of the poor, read a letter sent by Father Miguel D'Escoto in which he prays to God for the fighters who defend the country's sovereignty and reasserted his pledge to continue the fast, which he called a new nonviolent trench for struggle.

ARCE SAYS U.S. PLANS TO STOP REVOLUTION 'FAIL'

PA160202 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Commander Bayardo Arce, FSLN Potitical Commission coordinator, said that the criminal plans of the Reagan administration, to force Nicaragua to give up its plan for independent development and to subject our country to the orders of the United States, have failed.

He said that Nicaragua will continue the process of deep revolutionary transformations to meet the people's interests, despite U.S. aggression. Regarding the achievements of the past 6 years, Arce mentioned the 500,000 persons who have learned to read and write, the people's right to medical care and the agrarian reform that is in progress and has already benefitted some 115,000 peasant families.

Arce said that the Reagan administration may try an adventurist action against Nicaragua since they have had to accept the failure of the mercenaries to destroy the Sandinist revolution. Finally, Arce said that the Nicaraguans have been forced to give most of their attention to strengthening the country's defense and to prepare themselves to repel imperialist aggression.

SPANISH COMMUNIST LEADER ARRIVES IN MANAGUA

PA160245 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Francisco Frutos, member of the Spanish Communist Party Central Committee, arrived a few minutes ago in our country to attend the Sandinist people's victory sixth anniversary celebration.

Roberto Leal, a Foreign Ministry official, welcomed the Spanish politician at the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport, on behalf of the revolutionary government.

Various delegations and political personalities arrived during the weekend to participate in the Sandinist people's commemorative victory activities.

CASTRO DISCUSSES FOREIGN DEBT AT FELAP CONGRESS

FL091303 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 8 Jul 85

[Text] Participating in last night's session of the Fourth Congress of the Federation of Latin American Journalists, FELAP, Fidel Castro praised the statement made by various participants on the region's economic and financial crisis. Castro reiterated that the debt cannot be paid -- something that for some time no one had dared to say. Castro also mentioned that 2000 years ago the Roman Canon of law mentioned moratoriums, as well as the application of this measure by almost all of the Latin American countries, at one time or another, as it occurred in Cuba in the 1930's. He recalled a Mexican delegate's statement who mentioned a moratorium decreed by Benito Juarez and the appearance of ships and gunboats of the then capitalistic superpowers along the Mexican coast.

Castro said that the events of the past 40 years, such as the Algerian people's struggle, the 30-year Vietnam war against powerful superpowers, the struggle of the Portuguese, Cuban, and Nicaraguan colonies, and the ones being waged today by Salvadorans and Saharan people, have taught us and the industrialized world a lot. We are worthy of a little more respect. The major powers cannot even defeat one small country determined to defend its rights, Castro stressed. They cannot invade us; they cannot block us; nor can they divide us again. And, if they are crazy enough to try something similar, then capitalism will end quickly, the Cuban leader added. Not just because they cannot, but also because it is criminal to do it the way they are demanding that it be done. They could not block them, and they would be met with much greater solidarity than that provoked by the Malvinas war.

Castro recalled how Cuba, blockaded for almost 26 years, is attaining gains greater than those of other countries. The commander in chief said: We are the least affected by that crisis and, because of that, we can raise this banner. That debt is not only unpayable, but it has now become uncollectible. Castro added that we will have reached the verge of social explosions, the verge of revolution in this hemisphere should the imperialists try to collect that debt mercilessly.

The commander in chief concluded by saying: This meeting and this debate should have historical importance in this struggle and in the victory that we can achieve, that we should achieve, and that we will achieve.

Meeting Concludes

FL091310 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Excerpt] At the conclusion of the afternoon session of the National Assembly of the People's Government, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro went to Room 3 of the Palace of Conventions and greeted the Latin American journalists who were present. The closing remarks of this congress were given by Jorge Risquet Valdes, Communist Party of Cuba Politburo member.

Castro Press Conference

FL121553 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 Jul 85

[Press conference by Cuban President Fidel Castro with journalists attending the Fourth Congress of the Federation of Latin American Journalists, FELAP, at Havana's Palace of Conventions -- live]

[Excerpt] [Moderator] I would like to ask the colleagues to identify themselves please.

[Lopez] I am Juan Manuel Lopez, from Mexico's EXCELSIOR.

[Castro] It is a good thing I have a friend there [words indistinct]. EXCELSIOR, right?

[Lopez] Commander, today, according to the news dispatches, Reagan attacked Cuba, Nicaragua, Libya, and the DPRK at the American Bar Association, accusing these countries of forming a confederation of international terrorism. Moreover, this afternoon you said that the diplomatic pouches or equipment, I do not know which, of the women in the delegation going to Nairobi were taken away from them in Miami.

[Castro] No, no, no, no, no, no. One delegation went to Nairobi and the other was going to the United Nations.

[Lopez] Could this be one of the jobs of this confederation? Did they have weapons in their suitcases, or some contraband? How do you explain this?

[Castro] I will tell you the truth. We are here among serious people. I think Reagan cannot be taken seriously. This is my opinion. He is one of the most lying politicians that ever existed in the world. In addition, he is one of the most unscrupulous. He is a big liar, the biggest liar that has ever occupied the United States presidency. [applause]

[Lopez] [Words indistinct] a little dangerous.

[Castro] Right. I remember the Grenada invasion. Between him and his closest advisers they told 19 lies. I say that he does not even tell the truth by chance. Everything he says is a lie. Some say he is an ideologist. Perhaps he is an ideologist, but of lies. It is right for him to have an ideology, but he does not have to tell lies. He can be a rightist, a recalcitrant reactionary. Reagan's method is that of Goebbels. Yes, it is Hitler's method. Reagan tells the most unbelievable lies. He spoke today. We don't have to ask for the problem. What we must ask is not what Reagan said, but who wrote his latest speech. It surely must have been Buchanan of the Moon sect. He is Reagan's adviser and the one who wrote the speech. This is absurd. I told a member of the National Assembly that we will have to include this new organization in the United Nations. An association of terrorist states. He came up with this idea. He awoke this morning, was handed the paper, and he read it. This was absurd. One sometimes is under the impression that he is not even aware of the lies he utters. Well, this is the humorous part because there is also a tragic and dramatic part. Simply, Reagan is the biggest terrorist in history. Only a few days ago, he sent a message to Yamba to a meeting organized by South Africa and the CIA. In this meeting, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN], the counterrevolutionary organization in Nicaragua was one of the organizations, participated. There was also another from Southeast Asia; I think it was from Laos. This was a full-fledged conference of counterrevolutionary organizations in the territory of Angola. He sent them a message.

As we know, Reagan ordered the Nicaraguan ports mined. He also ordered the Nicaraguan ports attacked. Reagan ordered terrorist actions against the Nicaraguan people. Reagan provides one of the most terrorist governments in Central America with helicopters with tremendous firepower. They have C-47's equipped with sophisticated weapons that can fire thousands of rounds per minute. With this equipment, they bomb and strafe the peasant population and kill hundreds of people. Reagan supports the army that murdered the Nicaraguan [as heard] archbishop. Reagan supports the army that raped the U.S. nuns in Nicaragua [as heard]. Reagan supports paramilitary groups that murder U.S. citizens in that country. Reagan supports the Guatemalan regime, a U.S. freak that was born in 1954 and that has cost 100,000 men, women, and children their lives. This freak is also responsible for tens of thousands of missing persons. Reagan supported and supports the Pinochet government. Reagan supported the military dictatorship in Argentina which caused disappearances of no one knows how many thousands of people. Reagan also contracted Argentine intelligence officers and sent them to Honduras. He sent them to organize a counterrevolution there. We know the names of many of these people. Argentine intelligence officers were the first FDN instructors. Reagan invaded Grenada, bombed hospitals, murdered mental patients, promotes an arms race, rearmament, and a space war.

Finally, Reagan tries to impose terror in the world. Mr Ronald Reagan is history's biggest terrorist. What can you expect from a cynic such as he? I think that the best that can be said is that he is not even responsible for what he says. Often, he does not even know what he says. This is the answer that I can give you. Now I can see it perfectly well. He is nervous, irritated, and quite angry. I am of the opinion that this is a dirty campaign because he conducts a dirty war counseled by his advisers. We all know that Reagan boasts that he has never read a single book in his life. Maybe he read scripts when he was an actor, but not books. It cannot even be said he is responsible for what he says. He has a nasty group of advisers.

I think that he is angry, particularly at Cuba. You will see that he puts Cuba in the first position here. He has suddenly gotten angry. He had to get angry, unquestionably at Cuba. I think he is angry at what we have been discussing here, regarding Cuba's stance and motives. He is a little desperate. He has no way of countering this. He threatens and assumes the right to do whatever he wishes. Consider how pedantic this individual is. He did not directly include the Soviet Union, but he stressed Moscow's broad relations with most of the five countries of this association. He said that there are implications because of these ties for relations between the Kremlin and the United States and other democratic states. In other words, he not only describes several countries as terrorists, but also threatens the Soviet Union because, he says, that the relations between the Soviet Union and any of these countries, such as Cuba, are very good and that they will affect the USSR-U.S. relations.

As I recently said to a group of newsmen during another press conference, there are two types of communists: the good ones and the bad ones. Apparently we are the worst type of communists, the lowest form of communism. Why? Because they [not further identified] react violently to this struggle, this campaign we are waging about the foreign debt, the new international economic order. It is surprising. I seek an explanation, but I do not think there is any other explanation.

I already told you that they stole the [diplomatic] pouch, in a most outrageous manner, from a chartered plane that occasionally flies to that North American country, taking Cuban officials. The Cuban plane was carrying the pouches. These were not secret documents. The pouches were carrying many pamphlets, like the ones I gave you yesterday. The pamphlets of the Olympics were distributed this morning because the Latin American Group [GRULA] was trying to issue a resolution supporting the International Olympic Committee [IOC], which is a shameless, petty politicking group that the United States is backing.

Then, the Spanish ambassador, since the IOC chairman is a Spaniard...

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] A fascist Spaniard.

[Castro] How was that?

[Unidentified speaker] A fascist Spaniard.

[Castro] He is a fascist? [passage indistinct]

[Unidentified speaker] He was president of the (?city council) under Franco's dictatorship.

[Castro] I did not know that. But they are running around, working hard, going to the Berlin meeting, the Prague meeting, for the spartan games. [IOC Chairman] Samaranch knows very well our stand concerning the Seoul Olympics. We have said that a solution must be found. We do not agree with Olympic games that actually divide the country, that deepen the wounds in the country. To hold the Olympics in Seoul is actually a petty political maneuver of the imperialists. It is endorsing that colony. To hold the Olympics in Seoul would be like holding the Olympics at Guantanamo Naval Base, in the occupied territory of Cuba. This is something elementary in matters of principle, and we cannot accept that. It is a matter of principle.

Well, I would say then: Let them share the Olympics between both parts of Korea. That is, if they still want to hold Olympics, if they want to continue with that movement. I feel it would provoke a deep crisis. Besides, that resolution clashed with certain principles, which are upheld by the Third World countries, and are against apartheid. If that resolution is approved, apartheid might be forgotten in sports, and this is a struggle of the Third World countries, particularly of the African countries. They should have dropped the resolution because we have been strongly opposed to it. But they took the resolution to the GRULA; everything was done secretly. As you know, we are all involved in this struggle concerning the debt, and we do not want to distract our energy with something else. But suddenly, they wanted to bring the issue before GRULA. Our delegates then went around, talking with many Latin American representatives. We are going to take those papers to Nairobi, to the OAU, which is going to meet on the 15th. We are going to bring up that problem.

Besides, the Olympics belong to the very rich, the counts, the marquises, white people, and to the ones who direct the Olympic movement. But there is nothing democratic about it. There is a Mafia directing the Olympic movement, and how much longer are we going to tolerate this? It is a shame to see how the European capital cities fight each other, along with their former colonies, over who will be hosting the Olympics. The only Olympics held in the Third World were the ones held in Mexico. There has not been another held in a Third World country in all the years since then.

In Los Angeles, they made a profit of $200 million. They are commercializing the sports movement. They want to introduce professionalism. Where has that $200 million gone? They said it would pay for the transportation of the Third World participants. But that was not the case. They agreed on not even paying for the transportation of the Bolivians. So the Olympics only serve for the former colonies to send one representative just to show the grandeur and the racial superiority of the former mother country. [sentence as heard] This is so, even though it is U.S. blacks who win most of the medals for the racist regime of the United States.

Then, this serves to show the former colonies that the mother countries are superior in everything. Well, we won some medals, in baseball, in something, we always end up with a few medals.

Now, in order to practice sports, one needs organization and experts. We have graduated 18,000 professors of physical education and sports. We used to practice sports with much effort. However, in order to practice sports, one needs to have certain facilities and installations, and first of all, it needs well-fed youths.

In the case of Third World countries, let me give you an example. The Mexican public health minister recently stated that out of the 2 million children that are born every year, 100,000 die before they reach 5 years old, and 1 million develop physical and mental handicaps. The Third World countries do not have resources to spend on sports. The Olympic movement could at least use its resources to help the lesser developed countries. Where have they invested the $200 million profit from the Los Angeles games? In California, the richest state of the richest country. Not a single cent of that money has been invested in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Africa or Latin American countries, which have no resources. We are against this.

We had to present that material, and we distributed it today at the United Nations so that the Third World countries will learn of our stand, so that the socialist countries will know of our stand, and so that the entire world will know that our stand is based on solid principles. We were not impatient about distributing them. I think that this has to be discussed, but the United States already cheated on this and took this to the United Nations, claiming it was Spain. However, one of the texts had the word harmony [armonia] written with an H, and harmony is spelled with an H only in English. The document was thus drafted by the United States. [laughter]

Naturally, they wanted us to focus some of our energy on this problem, in order to distract us from our cause, which is a just cause. I asked the women who went to Nairobi to defend that cause. Do not forget Korea, Korea is a socialist country, it was the victim of aggression. That country suffered through a war -- a country where hundreds of thousands of persons were killed. During that war, hundreds of thousands of men from all parts of the world died. Even 100,000 Chinese volunteers died.

To hold the Olympics in Seoul is an outrageous maneuver. Well, then, if we want to share the Olympics, let us present a resolution. We are not calling for the suspension of the Olympics, but we want the events to be shared equally. For example, sharing the events between the northern and southern area of Korea. Korea, there is only one Korea, but the imperialists keep it divided. Seoul is a colony, one of the most horrible regimes, similar to Pinochet's regime. It is a base occupied by Yankee soldiers.

And I say that if we did not go to Los Angeles -- and many socialist countries did not go to Los Angeles for reasons of security -- I really cannot understand how a socialist country which abstained from going to Los Angeles could now go to Seoul. I will never understand that.

We never notice those issues of solidarity [corrects himself] of security. We have always gone [to the Olympics], but out of solidarity with the socialist countries, we did not go to Los Angeles. Reprisals were taken against us, using our absence as an excuse to deprive us of hosting the Pan-American Games. Cuba is a country that has done so much for sports; no Latin American country has ever done as much for sports as we have.

And yet, Mr Vasquez Rana, who is the chairman of the Mexican Olympic Committee owner [as heard] of the International Association of Olympic Committees and a multimillionaire, then granted the site of the Pan-American Games to Indianapolis, taking it away from Cuba for $30 million. And what does he do with this money? Does he help sports with this? No, he uses it to travel around the world.

He has a plane that is worth approximately several million dollars. He calls for meetings of that association, he bribes people, he puts them up at the best hotels with the best automobiles at their service, and he uses all of this money for petty politicking and for managing this international organization. He travels throughout the world, distributing gifts to Olympic leaders.

It is incredible corruption. Due to the solidarity with the socialist countries, we did not go to Los Angeles. What are we going to do now? Are we going to forget that Korea exists? Would this be moral? Would this be just? As a revolutionary state, as a socialist country, in order to win a few gold medals -- we win a few gold medals in any place, in Los Angeles, in Seoul -- are we going to betray principles for a few gold medals? No way. These were the reasons why this came up.

Nevertheless, the pouches were not carrying material on the Olympics. It was material that I had distributed on economic problems. It included the documents on the women's meeting and the speech to distribute at the United Nations. It also included the EL DIA interview. And the CIA which does it in an almost barefaced manner... [rephrases] The plane arrived, but when the courier went to pick up the pouches, they had disappeared and could not be found anywhere. Who has them? Maybe they are in Reagan's office. Maybe they will say that they have discovered a terrible conspiracy of the confederation of terrorist states. The material has been published. You were the first to receive it with what you received yesterday. This is what I can tell you. The women were going to Nairobi. They had to make a stopover in Cay Sal [an uninhabited islet of the Bahamas] and to continue on to Nairobi for a UN meeting.

I explained earlier that obstacles have been mounted because the imperialists are very concerned about that meeting. They want to depoliticize it. They do not want talk about apartheid or anything there. They do not want talk about any of the causes. They do not want talk about poverty and misery. I do not know what they want a women's meeting to do. They are intent on depoliticizing the meeting. But they will not succeed. They will not succeed in depoliticizing that meeting. You saw yesterday the determination with which those Latin American women were going to wage their battle. We provided the plane so the Latin American women could attend. The plane had to arrive in Cay Sal, cross Africa, fly over a number of countries. The trick that they set up was that verbally they gave permission, then they delayed it for a long time, and then they said that no one has signed a paper giving permission for the plane to fly. As a result, they had to travel to southern Africa, not South Africa, but Angola and to cross friendly countries and it will have to fly approximately 6 more hours and use more fuel. This was the result of all those tricks. In the same place, some of the Latin American women had to obtain visas through the British Embassy and I do not think Thatcher is willing to cooperate so that the Latin Americans who maintain a correct position will attend the Nairobi meeting. As a result, many Latin American women arrived there without visas. This is how one has to struggle in this world.

You know that to this we must add the fact that the United States has a rigid policy and has threatened all member countries of the United Nations. Those who vote against U.S. interests have their credits and aid paralyzed. They do not receive anything. I have never seen such a shameless policy of pressure on the rest of the countries as the one the United States is currently implementing. I am not exaggerating, companeros. I am saying things that I know. I am not inventing anything. Now that they have stolen the pouches I am glad. Perhaps the material will arrive on Wednesday. Another plane leaves tomorrow with more material or maybe I will send it by telex. [laughter] All of it. It will awaken interest in the material; they are playing dirty.

This shows the fear and the dread they have regarding this problem. They dread ideas and with these threats we should be shaking over Mr Reagan's threats? Are you really afraid? We are really terrified. [laughter, applause] Reagan is achieving his purpose, he is diverting us from identification... the main problem, which is the economic crisis and the debt, and he is making all those idiotic remarks. I am willing to answer all your questions, but I must warn you that one of the things he wants is to distract us from the main objective.

[Name indistinct] I want [words indistinct] that there is enormous expectation among the delegations, discussing important topics especially with regard to the debt which is something that concerns the entire world. There are delegations here today who do not want to return to their countries without answers, paths, solutions, and, of course, an exchange of ideas with Comrade Fidel Castro. We can leave with elements that can lead to an exchange of ideas and clarifications. If we suddenly include in this interview correspondents, professionals of other media who have not been with us all these days discussing with us these problems, we will feel frustrated. We want some order here so that each delegation can achieve its expectations regarding important issues.

[Moderator] We are just beginning the press conference and you cannot prejudge. Let us see if (?they) can go to Tropicana tonight with us. Please, the comrade from Chile, and later...

[Castro, interrupting] The journalists who did not attend the meeting are asking questions?

[Moderator] No, because there are some journalists who are accredited to our country who have been invited to the press conference.

[Castro] Correct, they create a serious dilemma. However, my impression was that this was to be a meeting with the journalists who came for the [FELAP] conference. I deeply appreciate all the others, and if possible I would even stay with them later, when the others leave for Tropicana, to talk with them. I think, however, that it is reasonable to take into consideration the ones who were at the conference.

[Moderator] That is what we will do. In fact, there is Comrade (Richard), a Chilean, he has come to the conference, and he has come...

[Castro, interrupting] Don't say anymore because they will execute him and he will disappear. He will be number 201.

[(Richard)] I would obtain asylum here then.

[Castro] What did you say? [laughter]

[(Richard)] I would obtain asylum here.

[Castro] Right. [laughter]

[(Richard)] I am Jorge Andres (Richard), of (APSI) magazine, PUNTO FINAL, and the newspaper LA TERCERA DE LA HORA of Chile. Your proposal for the Third World to declare a moratorium or a halt to the payment of its foreign debt will unfortunately cause a reply from the industrialized countries that will lead to various kinds of pressure. The countries that still continue under dictatorships such as that of Pinochet in Chile will hasten to ask for and to fulfill instructions from the empire. This will strengthen their regimes. Do you think this will lead to a weakening of the democratic opposition forces? What solution do you visualize for our country, a negotiation with the dictatorship, a political solution in the style of the neighboring southern cone countries or a popular military solution?

[Castro] In the first part of your question, when you say it will strengthen the regime, what could strengthen it?

[(Richard)] At least maintain it.

[Castro] What could?

[(Richard)] What?

[Castro] What can maintain it or help maintain it?

[(Richard)] The financial aid.

[Castro] The United States.

[(Richard)] Exactly.

[Castro] Well, Chile has one of the largest debts, but it is unquestionable that the United States is helping it. I read many reports every day and very frequently I read about World Bank credits granted to Chile; credits and more credits, negotiations. In other words, while Reagan carries out an embargo against Nicaragua he tries to send resources of every means to Pinochet to help support him, to help him survive. I can assure you that approximately 8 or 10 months ago, the Yankees were so frightened about the Chilean situation that they were looking for a replacement for Pinochet with the not totally groundless argument of preventing a Nicaragua in Chile.

In those days they were making plans to remove Pinochet. However, when the people's resistance and the revolutionary movement grew they became increasingly afraid and changed their policy. They sent Motley and other people, including the deputy defence minister there to prop up Pinochet's position. We must not forget Motley's incredible statement that the Western world had to be thankful to Pinochet because he had freed Chile from a socialist regime -- a government that the people had chosen through legal means and that was criminally overthrown by the military under the Pentagon's and the CIA's direction and guidance. It is well known that the pots-and-pans demonstrations and all the strikes were organized and financed by the CIA. The Pentagon and the CIA were involved in the plot behind the military coup that brought to Chile the worst tyranny that country has ever known. It has been in power almost 12 years, claimed untold lives, and brought much poverty. That regime has destroyed the Chilean economy, ruined its industry, and mortgaged the country. However, Reagan's representative said that the Western world had to be thankful for Pinochet. They are now attempting to consolidate Pinochet's power and keep him in power until 1989. They are trying to promote an agreement between Pinochet and the opposition. Frankly, I believe this will be impossible.

As to your question, I do not believe Pinochet's position can be bolstered. The people repudiate and hate him more each day, and he is becoming increasingly isolated. It would be somewhat daring of me to propose ways to overthrow or eliminate [liquidar] Pinochet. However, I believe the Chileans are intensifying their resistance and struggle against Pinochet; the people's resistance is becoming increasingly stronger and invincible. Even the armed people's resistance is growing. It is up to the Chileans, not to me, to choose an option. All I can say is that there is a sine qua non conviction that Pinochet's downfall must be hastened, and unity among all of Chile's progressive, democratic, and revolutionary forces is vital.

You asked me how Pinochet's downfall can be hastened. I must say that unity is the vital factor. The opposition must rally round the growing movement toward unity and sit down to discuss this. I am sure that if the entire opposition, including the right, center, and left wings, the revolutionaries, and the conservatives sit down, discuss the matter, and unite, Pinochet's days will be numbered. They already are. However, the regime's duration would be shortened. It seems to me that the most important thing at a meeting such as this, especially in view of your question -- regardless of what I might think, believe or prefer -- is for all of us to advocate the unity of all the opposition forces. As I told you earlier, I have discussed this problem with the Chilean revolutionaries. We maintain broad relations with many Chilean parties and excellent relations with top Chilean revolutionary leaders, people who are extremely capable, courageous, and organized. I will not say who they are, that is a secret. I can say they are struggling more and more vigorously. Imperialism is correct in concluding that prolonging the Pinochet regime will end in a revolution as radical as Nicaragua's. However, one cannot bet on or wish for the Pinochet dictatorship to prolong its power so that the result will be more radical. I believe that revolutions come sooner or later, fast or slow, in one way or another. Nonetheless, it would not be unjustified to desire a speedy change, because under our revolutionary option we cannot want the prolongation of a regime that can cost even more thousands of lives and much suffering. This includes not only those who Pinochet guns down or tortures, but those he starves, the children who die each year of hunger.

For example, we estimate that the Cuban revolution has saved 300,000 lives through its health and sanitation measures. You saw the 15-percent rate. How many would have died if it were Chile? Or Bolivia, for that matter? Compared to those indexes, it would add up to 800,000 or 1 million lives. I have established the comparison based on pre-revolutionary indexes. This allows us to estimate how many children, newborns, under 5 years of age, and teenagers the revolution has saved in 26 years. But those killed by a system must also be counted. I have said this to human rights advocates who speak of how many have been killed or are missing. The system murders more people than those. In the name of the most basic and purest concept of human rights, all those children and people who die of malnutrition and the like must also be counted. The Pinochet regime does not only torture: it murders and kills people. This happens in other countries as well, unfortunately. The system kills many, many people.

When the women met, some of them stated that more than 100 [of every 1,000] children die during their first year of life in Bolivia, and it is estimated that approximately 90 children die in Ecuador and Peru during their first year of life. The figure grows when one adds those who die between the ages of 1 and 5. This is incredible. But the fact is that they are dying. Some are shot, others are tortured to death, and others starve because they get no food. How high is the Chilean people's toll?

Frankly, I want the Pinochet regime to fall as soon as possible. I hope there is a democratic opening, even if it is not a revolution. We would be happy if there were a democratic opening soon, even if the revolution does not come immediately. Those of us who really believe in revolution know that revolution comes sooner or later. No one can contain it or the social changes it brings. I am so confident in the future of the Latin American peoples and in the social changes that will come! Naturally, if tomorrow I hear there is a revolution, I will be even happier. However, if I hear there has been a democratic opening, I will be very happy, and I really want that for the Chilean people. I believe that a democratic opening will not prevent the eventual arrival of social changes.

[Jose Carlos Montero, of Brazil] Commander, the Brazilians are following with special interest the negotiations between Havana and Brasilia to renew diplomatic relations. When do you expect the Brazilian Government to make its decision? What advantages are there for Cuba to renew such relations? Once relations have been reestablished, to what extent does Cuba expect to rely on the cooperation of Brazil in relation to the foreign debt debate? In your opinion, will the decision of Brazil on the foreign debt, one way or another, seriously affect the other debtors?

[Castro] There are no actual negotiations at present to renew diplomatic relations. What happened is that government spokesmen in parliament have voiced their support to renew relations, and the executive branch itself is optimistic over the possibility of renewing relations between the two countries. Cuba presents no obstacles to that eventuality; it will all depend on the discussion at this time to renew relations, and on the decision to be adopted by the Brazilian Government. We are aware that a democratic opening has taken place in Brazil with a number of complex tasks to be resolved immediately. Besides, an unexpected situation arises when the president-elect dies and is replaced by the vice president, who has to assume the responsibility of the government under a most difficult economic crisis. I imagine there are a number of priorities that have occupied the government's full attention in these first months.

Our attitude is to try not to pressure the point on renewing relations. It is not that we do not want relations. We want relations, but we do not want to add to Brazil's difficulties at this time. We are not being affected by the complex situation existing in Brazil. It would not be fair for us to press the issue and start asking our friends to help us in reestablishing relations. We feel it would not be a friendly attitude if we should at this time press Brazil on renewing relations. Despite our previous comments, we leave it up to the Brazilian Government to decide on the time it may deem opportune to reestablish relations with Cuba; we are ready to proceed at any time. We believe that this is the only position we can take, since we approve of the democratic process and wish to cooperate with the Brazilian people in the consolidation of that process.

Cuba and Brazil would stand to gain, of course. Brazil is more developed industrially than we are; particularly, in mechanical industry. It produces transport, construction, and industrial equipment. It has developed some technologies which we could acquire. Recently, we told reporters that we had obtained equipment to produce milk from soybean, and which the Brazilians themselves have named the mechanical cow. We obtained three units of this equipment and installed them in our country. We are now testing the quality of the milk. Of course, the demand is not much, particularly, in a country accustomed to consuming cow's milk, even though it costs much more than soy milk, and those who can afford cow's milk do not buy soy milk. However, those children allergic to cow's milk are consuming soy milk, which is very healthy, and has practically the same nutrition value as cow's milk. In fact, it is basically as nutritious as cow's milk, if you add a percentage of sugar to it.

There are some countries that have no cattle, many of them in the Third World. We acquired several of these machines and have donated them to Third World nations so that they may benefit. In fact, we have ample relations with Third World nations. We have construction organizations, doctors, and many collaborators. Besides, we cooperate with donations to many countries. Therefore, since we support the cooperation among Third World nations, we believe that our relations could help establish bilateral cooperation with nations of Africa, Asia, and others, between Brazil and Cuba. We do not always donate our services, for instance, in the case of countries with more resources. For instance, we have doctors in over 25 countries, and only two or three pay for it; to the others, we donate this service. We have construction organizations working in different countries. We have collaborators in the fields of economic and social developments.

There are other fields where there could be a shared cooperation between Brazil and Cuba. Thus, the perspectives for these relations are based not only on bilateral commerce, but also on our mutual cooperation in the Third World. Brazil also produces a number of grains and foodstuffs which it exports, and which we import. Brazil is technically advanced in the production of alcohol and sugar. We also have technology. There are scientific areas where we have advanced considerably.

Of course, we have no doubt that cooperation between Brazil and Cuba is important in the economic field. However, we believe that the most important cooperation between Brazil and Cuba is the common struggle for the new international economic order, so vital to all our countries; the common struggle against unfair exchange, protectionism, dumping [preceding word in English] the common struggle for the solution of the external debt which we recommended be canceled. Although we called it cancellation, some countries unfortunately interpret it as paying the debt. We mean not to pay the debt, to cancel it, to erase it, and start with a clean slate.

With the new international economic order, if they want to make loans to us, we would be willing to pay them, but at reasonable interest rates, and if they agree to pay us better for our products. We expect the banks will loan us funds for development, not to have them deviate from their objective as it has been the case in the past. All this happened because the masses have no notion of these problems. As some reporters said yesterday, neither parliaments nor public opinion intervene; only a handful of technocrats who meet in Washington or Paris, or who knows where, and decide what to do among themselves.

The debt is renegotiated in the most undemocratic way in the world. The people do not intervene, the workers are not consulted. The parliament, which represents national sovereignty, is not asked for an opinion on the renegotiation measures or the agreements adopted and their consequences on the people.

Regarding the question on the importance of Brazil's decision concerning the debt, we feel it would be decisive. If tomorrow Brazil were to take a step forward, no Latin American country would carry more weight than Brazil. I believe that in some way Brazil holds the key to finding a solution for the problem. There are other countries in addition to Brazil. But very few countries also have the key to solving the problem. However, there is no doubt that the country that carries the most weight is Brazil. I am not urging Brazil to take this step. I do not want anyone to say that I have urged any country to take a specific action. I defend a thesis, I divulge it, and I believe that each country should decide what to do.

However, someone said yesterday -- I believe it was the colleague over there in the back who spoke yesterday -- that Brazil has 20 percent of the debts of the Third World countries. I disagree with that. The debt of Third World countries is more than $900 billion, and $104 billion is not 20 percent of that amount. It is really a little less than one-ninth. It should be approximately 8, 12 and a fraction of a percent of the Third World countries' debt. However, Brazil owes 30 percent of Latin America's foreign debt. Brazil is not only one of the countries with the largest debt, but also it is a self-sufficient country, in the good sense of the word. In other words, it is a country that produces its own food and has developed its industries. It is a country with a growing oil supply of its own, a country that maintains close relations with the Third World. It is a large country. Brazil is undoubtedly a force in reference to this problem, to this struggle. It is one of the strongest countries, which in my opinion should play a fundamental role in solving this problem. Therefore, as I said, Brazil's role is decisive. I do not believe that Brazil is the only country that could do this; there are other Latin American countries capable of taking the lead or setting into motion the mechanisms for solving this problem.

As I said yesterday, there are small countries, with small debts, whose decisions do not have any significant repercussions. There are already countries that have not been paying their debts for some time. An example is Bolivia, which has declared itself unable to pay either the capital or the interest. Although it has repeatedly said so, there has been no scandal about it. I assume that it is because the creditors do not want to make a big fuss about it in order to prevent the virus from... [sentence incomplete] I understand that Peru has not been paying interest on its debt for almost 1 year; it has only paid limited amounts. However, again it is something that has been done silently.

All these problems begin to have a special connotation when viewed under certain principles. A very small country, with a very small debt -- $1, $1.5, or $3 billion -- does not have a decisive effect on this situation for which a certain amount of influence is required. Naturally, the biggest debtors are the ones with more influence. Therefore, the situation of each country should be considered, that is, what are its markets, what measures can be taken against that country. I am absolutely convinced that the creditors' reaction will be to sit down and talk, but this time seriously. Right now they do not want to talk, they are not interested in holding talks, and have replied with total disdain to love letters. No attention was given to the Contadora Group's letter to the IMF in April, last spring, or to the letter sent to the Bonn summit. These letters received no attention at all, and I could say a lot about this, because I know the whole story. The creditors have ignored these letters, and they will pay no attention to the indebted countries unless these countries assume a firm position. This is my thesis.

This is why I have mentioned the example of a trade union that receives no answer to its frequent requests and demands, and subsequently declares a strike. I am not calling for a strike tomorrow or the day after. I have used the word strike as a synonym, as a similar word for moratorium. In other words, unless the countries adopt a firm position, or unless a powerful country or several countries adopt a firm position, they will have to negotiate. As I said yesterday, there will be no blockade. This subject is included in the material that I think has been distributed among you. I wonder if you have copies of the second part? Have you received a copy? [Someone replies that only the first one has been distributed.] There is a second part that should be ready before I leave here tonight. As I was saying, no measures will be taken. There will be no blockade, because this would unleash the mechanism of the strongest solidarity ever to exist. A blockade, economic measures... A barbarian once said that even insulin shipments needed by diabetic persons would be stopped because the vessels and planes would be confiscated. These are threats. Of course, there are no threats of invasion. No one is as crazy as to say that he will send torpedo boats like the ones sent to Juarez when he decided to cancel or annul the debt. It would be crazy to send torpedo boats.

For instance, let's recall the Malvinas conflict, which took place in a very remote place. Although Argentina was under a dreadful government, all of Latin America and the Third World expressed their solidarity, and even offered to send troops. I would like you to tell me what the Third World or Latin American peoples had to gain in the Malvinas. They had nothing to gain or lose; they only wanted to show their solidarity with the Argentine people. However, this is not a matter of simple solidarity, it is a vital matter for all countries. If any country is blocked for taking this kind of action, it will be supported by all the Third World countries. I am sure that the socialist countries would support it, and I am sure that numerous industrial countries would also give their support. Only a few imperialist countries would not: the same ones opposed to the Law of the Sea, the same ones that refuse to sign the Sea Rights Convention, and a small group of four or five that are opposed to the sanctions against South Africa.

However, they would be alone. If those countries decided to implement economic measures or to implement a blockade against one of these countries because of its foreign debt, the blockaded country would not be alone. On the contrary, it is imperialism which would become isolated if such measures are implemented, and I am sure it would be only a small group of countries. Those countries will not implement hasty measures either; they will negotiate instead.

Now, the countries that take a step forward must maintain a firm position, as they would have the solidarity of the rest of the world, with the very few exceptions I mentioned before. They would particularly have the steadfast solidarity of the non-aligned countries, of all the Third World countries. Thus, that country would assume a very big responsibility. It is not a matter of raising a flag today and lowering it tomorrow, because that would affect all the rest of the countries. In other words, prior to taking a step forward, the countries must have a clear understanding of what they are doing. They must show firm resolution in order to seek strategic objectives for economies of the Third World countries, because disloyalty, concessions, or settlements are not expected in exchange for solidarity. We must be fully aware that those countries which, because of the weight they carry, are able to take the step, will receive overwhelming support, but also assume great responsibility toward the Third World: to see the struggle through; that is, to achieve the total repudiation of the debt by all the Third World countries and the establishment of a new world economic order. This is an important idea. I start with certain premises in which I am totally confident.

[Gutierrez] Luis Carlos Maria Gutierrez, NUMERO magazine, of Venezuela. Commander, in the process to reestablish relations...

[Moderator] Carlos, can't you stand up?

[Gutierrez] In the process of reestablishing relations between Cuba and Venezuela, what outside factors do you believe are working to delay the decision?

[Castro] Are you referring to the specific case of Venezuela?

[Gutierrez] I am referring to the reestablishment of relations between Cuba and Venezuela.

[Castro] There are diplomatic relations between Cuba and Venezuela. However, we do not have an ambassador there. This began with an incident that brings bitter memories to our country. Everyone knows who carried out the fact of sabotage against that aircraft, claiming more than 70 lives, including our entire young fencing team. All of its members were killed. You must remember the radio transmission from the aircraft as the bomb exploded and the plane was going down. The pilot dramatically recounted what was happening: the smoke, the fire aboard, and later we learned about the guys who boarded the plane in Trinidad, placed the bomb in the lavatory, got off the plane in Barbados, where the plane refueled, took off, and when it had been in the air for a while, the bomb exploded. Those people were trained by the CIA. They were criminals. Although the crime did not take place in Venezuela, but in Barbados, the crime was planned in Venezuela, and the fact that there were two Venezuelans among the criminals who destroyed the aircraft prompted Venezuela to claim jurisdiction over the case. The authors of the action were sent to Venezuela, and since then, influence was used, all kinds of documents were stolen, and they received broad collaboration, even from government officials.

I do not intend to accuse anyone. Carlos Andres Perez made serious attempts to have those responsible punished. Everyone knows this, it is written down.

There is a companera here who wrote a book about this. All the details of that action are well known. However, at a given time certain influences were used and evidence disappeared from the court files. Our country was truly infuriated by this problem because it was a very sensitive issue.

We recalled our ambassador from Venezuela when we learned the criminals had been acquitted. It was impossible to keep a Cuban mission there under those circumstances. That is how the problem started. Later the case was moved to the military courts and back to the civilian courts, but the criminals were not punished. Our people are very sensitive about this. We cannot believe that the crime went unpunished. That is what prompted us to withdraw our ambassador, thus delaying this matter. We do not have a hostile attitude toward Venezuela. We are aware that we must work toward unity and cooperation between our countries because we share many interests. However, this incident has unfortunately continued to weigh on our relations. We do not feel guilty or responsible about this. The only way to resume normal relations would be to put the painful memories of that monstrous crime out of our hearts and begin to work from there. We want to work for relations, rapprochement, and unity between our countries, but based on principles. That is the only factor that has obstructed Cuban-Venezuelan relations.

[Moderator] I now ask the Dominican delegation to choose a representative and ask its question.

[Pena] Victor E. Pena of the Dominican Republic's LISTIN DIARIO. Commander, it is possible that Jorge Blanco will remain in power in the Dominican Republic for a long time to come. Reports substantiate this idea with the recent reorganization in the military commands, the exclusion of Pena Gomez from the presidential race, the difficult struggle between Jorge Blanco and the Dominican Congress, and above all, the fact that Jorge Blanco already signed the agreements with the IMF and that he is the most active supporter of that pro-IMF position. Even Jacobo Majluta, the possible presidential candidate of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, has stated that the agreements with the IMF must be revised. Don't you believe that taking into account Bolivia's position, the announcement of the Peruvian president-elect on the revision of the IMF agreements, and the support that idea receives in Latin America, the United States is willing to keep Jorge Blanco in power through a coup, the dismissal of Congress, or through electoral fraud? My question is not only about the situation in my country, but about imperialism's policy toward the foreign debt.

[Castro] This implies a rupture of institutional order and the violation of the Constitution, possibly a coup.

[Pena] Yes, sir.

[Castro] That is not so simple, because it would be very dangerous to destroy the democratic institutions in the country. Let us call the framework democratic. But we must realize that Dominicans are a combative people, rebellious as well. This has to be taken into consideration. They are a united people with a developed political awareness. They demonstrated their heroism in the wake of the 1965 Yankee intervention. And I do not think it would be easy for anyone to instrument a coup d'etat, not even the military.

One can appreciate the very difficult economic situation, and it seems to me that a violation of the Constitution, the imposition of a government by force through a coup d'etat, would bring the moment of revolution even closer in Santo Domingo, in the Dominican Republic.

It seems to me that it would be a grave error, on the part of both imperialism and the political group, the current president, the Dominican military, to carry out such a deed. I know the situation is complicated, and I know that the situation is tense. And the application of the IMF measures has not been easy, because I believe the Dominican Republic is a classic example of what the application of these measures signifies and where the application of these measures leads, because in the Dominican Republic there was a virtual popular insurrection. Since then the situation has been very tense. The crisis is worsening and becoming more difficult, not only because of the debt, which is some $3 billion, but also due to other factors: Because the price of sugar is less than 3 cents; because the United States has reduced considerably the sugar quotas of Santo Domingo, with the Dominican Republic subsidizing all of its own sugar; because trade is unequal; because prices have deteriorated; because of spiraling unemployment, some 30 percent of the work force is unemployed which makes it one of the highest, even above that of Chile's because the total unemployed and underemployed is almost 50 percent. The situation is very difficult.

Really, from the viewpoint of the interests of the privileged sectors of the country, to impose a de facto government, to impose a coup d'etat would lead to the abyss of a revolution, to the doors of a revolution.

Of course, I do not think that Batista's military coup in Cuba was the decisive factor of the revolution in Cuba. Long before the coup d'etat we had a plan of revolutionary struggle, and the coup d'etat forced us to change that plan. There is no doubt that the coup d'etat helped accelerate the revolution; it united a lot of people. I cannot say that it accelerated the entire revolution, but it undoubtedly created ideal conditions for the revolution.

A coup d'etat in the Dominican Republic would create the ideal conditions for a revolution or a maneuver to the effect, and it does not seem sensible. Although, to paraphrase what Marti once said: Heaven has not wanted the tyrants to be wise twice. [sentence as heard] Imperialism is often not wise twice. In fact, on many occasions it has demonstrated that it can be stupid and insensitive two, three, five times over. If analyzed coldly and logically, I think they can gain more by halting and diminishing the tensions and seeking some palliatives, than by resorting to violating the Constitution or attempting a military coup to establishing a government supported by the military in the Dominican Republic. That is my analysis, although I cannot bet on it 100 percent. This appears to be the logic of the circumstances, although I know the situation is complex.

Then what we have proposed is that either these problems, which have led all of these countries to a crisis, are resolved, or we are on the threshold of a revolution in many Latin American countries. That is, in essence, what we maintain. As I explained yesterday, we prefer an immediate rebellion of the Third World against the unjust established economic order, a rebellion to resolve the problems of the economic crisis, to resolve the problems of the debt, to resolve the problems of the unequal trade, to achieve a new international economic order, to create conditions for development. I have thought a great deal, I have meditated a lot on this, and I have reached that conclusion. This does not imply in the least that we are allergic to revolutions or that a revolution will sadden us. Also, as I said, we know the experience of what is occurring and what is happening. You yourselves run the risk of aggressions, invasions, interventions. They did so in 1965, and that madman would not hesitate -- with a progressive government, I am not talking about a revolutionary government -- to begin by imposing obstacles of all kinds, economic blockades, blocking of credits, and use of arms. I think that if we win this battle against the debt and the new economic order, such a force and a unity will be generated that our countries will obtain a much higher level of guarantees against foreign intervention and interference.

I think that times are changing. Look at the Malvinas, at the difference between what happened in the Malvinas and what happened in Santo Domingo.

When the invasion of Santo Domingo occurred, many Latin American countries sent police and troops there. The OAS supported it. But in the Malvinas they were not able to. The immense majority of the OAS opposed it. The United States was isolated. I think we have to create conditions so that the United States does not exercise the right to invade our countries -- conditions of unity and solidarity, which is what gives us strength. That is why I emphatically defend this idea, because I know it will give us all great strength and create conditions not only for our development, but for our independence. It will create the strength that will permit us to defend ourselves from imperialist interventions.

If the pygmies are divided, they snatch them one by one and try to annihilate them. They cannot always do so. They have not annihilated Nicaragua or eliminated Cuba, and they are not going to. Reagan knows this, I think, better than anyone. They know that we have millions of men who are organized; men and women organized, trained, and armed. They know that if they invade this country they will meet their Waterloo here. [applause]

We have turned out to be resistant and rebellious pygmies, with spears in our hands, which we do not know how to use. I do not think that we are any better than the other Latin Americans, not at all. Who can think themselves better than the others? The Salvadorans -- you saw them, you saw the companerita who spoke yesterday -- are small but courageous. They are the most courageous pygmies I have known. Nicaraguans are very courageous pygmies. Mexicans proved to be pygmies of tremendous courage during their revolution. Who can deny that? Who can deny the courage of Dominican pygmies during the intervention, the rebellion, and the time of Camano and the heroic resistance, when Yankee troops came and invaded the country's capital. They showed tremendous courage and impressed the Yankees. Many leaders of that revolution survived. Camano himself survived because of the Dominican people's impressive courage.

Don't we know about the courage of Venezuelans, Colombians, Panamanians, Ecuadoreans, Peruvians, Chileans, Argentines, Uruguayans, and Brazilians? I have said this before. I have said this during some interviews. They think that we are a mixture of haughty Spaniards, backward blacks, and ignorant Indians; and we could add haughty Portuguese. They think that we are a mixture of that. I have told some Yankees, listen, that mixture is dangerous; do not underestimate it; do not underestimate it. [applause]

We are pleased to know that as far as we are concerned we have proven that the mixture is dangerous. However, we know we are not the only ones that have proven that. I wholeheartedly believe that the potential for struggle and sacrifice of the Latin American governments is tremendous. But that applies to other peoples as well. As I explained in that pamphlet, 40 years ago, the world map.... [rephrases] when I was a fifth and sixth grade student, I used to see that the map was red all over. Well, was it the communist world? No, it was the English empire. There was another large yellow area. Was that the Chinese danger? Was that a Chinese world? No, it was the French empire. At the time, it covered Canada, almost all of Caribbean islands, Jamaica, Australia, and India. Even China was the color of the empire of the rising sun. What happened to all of that? Who is invading China? By way of example, who is invading China? Some deranged person may say I am going to invade China, occupy it, and establish a colony there. Until recently, this kind of deranged person existed. Perhaps not even a small country like the Sahara, which had several thousand people. Algeria; I knew Algeria existed, I used to see it as part of the French map. What did Algeria prove?

What about Vietnam? Who knew Vietnam existed?

At least, I used to see it as a French colony. What was that? A French property? Listen, Vietnam was capable of defeating the world's most powerful imperialist nation during a 30-year war. Forty years ago nothing of the sort had happened. Who can afford to underestimate us, ignore us, despise us. We are trying to dissuade them from doing that. We ourselves do not want to be invaded. We know what will happen if they invade us. We will defeat them. They will have to leave. We have already estimated that they need millions of soldiers.

More Yankees are going to die here than during World War II. We have created all the conditions. This pygmy has created 400 elephant traps; 400,000 elephant traps. Everywhere he goes, there is a trap set for the elephant. In the military sense, the elephants will always be in that trap.

We have used all the experiences from all the other countries. We have studied them carefully. We have assimilated them. That is the reason we are strong. They know that they cannot frighten us with any of that nonsense, that garbage. It has no impact at all. Well then, what can they throw at us? Fifty atomic bombs? No good. They would poison themselves if they throw an atomic bomb. [applause] My opinion is that one should not underestimate or despise my people. I am deeply convinced that we cannot afford to underestimate and despise the Dominican people. The Dominican pygmies are strong and courageous.

[Moderator] Peruvian comrades have asked to speak. We beg Solomon and Efrain [not further identified] to decide. Solomon, if you please.

[Solomon] Commander Fidel, I believe that in various documents and speeches you have covered four basic aspects regarding payment of the foreign debt. The first aspect concerns not paying the foreign debt because it cannot be collected or paid. I believe that all of us here, and all the governments of Latin America are aware of this aspect. The second major aspect concerns the new international order. I believe we are all aware of this. I believe the Latin American governments, which throughout the period since they achieved political independence, are aware that the international order has never been favorable to Third World and underdeveloped countries. For this reason we have been dancing to the same tune played with different economic theories.

Therefore, I believe that all of us will agree to support the new international order. The third aspect concerns peace and defense. We believe that this is also fundamental and that all Third World countries will support this fundamental problem of expenditures for defense and peace. The fourth problem truly concerns us, because it involves Latin American political unity and economic integration. We believe that in the long term, the Latin American governments and people will arrive at key agreements on economic integration. I believe basic ideas have been proposed, such as the need to nationalize our economies to learn to live from what we produce, such as the planning of [words indistinct] in the development of our countries, such as the formation of multinational marketing businesses.

However, what concerns us the most is the short- and long-term [words indistinct]. In view of the situation, and not wanting to be pessimistic but realistic, Latin American countries have had some experience with integration through the Andean Pact. We have had some experience with the Latin American governments' positions regarding the negotiation. We have had some experience in Latin American forums on protection of raw materials. We believe that short- and long-term are really needed. Commander Fidel, it is very important to hear your views on what stance Latin American countries should adopt in the short- and long-term. Thank you.

[Castro] Latin American countries have not really had political independence or economic independence. This is all a fabrication. As an example, in our relations with the Nonaligned Movement, with Africa, we see that in all the international forums Africans always express themselves more freely than persons from other areas of the world. We Latin Americans had become used to bondage, that is, to repeat and accept everything the United States said. I think that we have begun a process of greater political independence; undoubtedly, starting from the Cuban and the Nicaraguan revolutions. Look at the OAS -- that instrument of domination. Virtually, it exists but it has been totally discredited. All of the imperialist's mechanisms for political domination like the OAS have been disintegrating, losing prestige. What they do have is total economic domination. In terms of priorities, the foreign debt struggle occupies first place in Latin America. All this is part of the struggle for peace. First comes the foreign debt -- the new economic order problems -- and then we propose economic integration.

I think that the most urgent thing to do is to face the economic crisis, the debt, the battle. I think this would generate a great force and would generate great unity. It would create the conditions for independence and, therefore the necessary force for increasing the unity. We cannot have political unity, if we do not have political independence. We cannot have political independence if we do not have economic independence. I would say that we have to create the conditions, first for unity of action to solve problems vital to attaining a force that makes us worthy of respect from the empire, and likewise guarantees the conditions for our independence.

I do not think it will be easy to advance quickly toward political unity; I think this will be a lengthy process. In addition, I think it will be easy to attain levels of unity for this battle. Of course, I am not only thinking about the governments, I am thinking about the peoples. That is what we are doing to take this. [rephrases] I think that this idea first must be discussed with the people. In other words, there can be no possibility of attaining independence. There is no future, no possibility for development. There is nothing without these three things: liquidating and rejecting the debt, adopting a new international economic order, and adopting economic integration, at least in an initial phase, among the Latin American countries.

We must discuss this with the masses. If we discuss this with the masses, the idea will gather enormous force. It will no longer depend only on the foreign ministries, clandestine political meetings, or political caudillos. It will depend on the people, only on the people who can rightfully join the struggle.

I think it is about time the people learn about this and join the struggle. A lot is being said about unity, about Bolivar's legacy, but [laughs] the necessary conditions have never been given to attain unity, or unity of action.

Consequently, basing ourselves on these two basic points, the debt and a new economic order, we can generate a unity of action, a force, and create the conditions for an independence, development. I believe that if we advance in these two aspects, we can take the next steps, particularly if the masses support these ideas, toward a form of economic integration. The time is not near, but it can be accelerated if there are great changes and revolutions. The process can be accelerated toward the achievement of political integration. Europe, for example, has made a lot of progress in economic integration; there is no doubt about that. It is exerting itself to attain political integration. Of course, there are greater differences among European countries than among us. The difference between an Italian, a Spaniard, a Frenchman, a German, a Dane, and a Dutchman are enormous.

None of them have what we have in common. We have a common language, because we even understand Portuguese. We have similar cultures, social conditions -- we even have the same religion, and that is very important because there exists a theology about our liberation. There is a strong movement within the church in favor of social changes, social justice. No hemisphere has the elements of unity that our hemisphere has. The Soviet Union itself, which is a multinational republic, is comprised of quite different countries and nations.

We seem to comprise a single nation. I have problems finding the differences between a Dominican, a Venezuelan, even a Colombian -- the Mexicans are slightly different because they come from the high plateau and have a unique culture. We find that we have so many things in common and no other hemisphere, anywhere in the world, has as many things in common as we do. We will have to unite some day. However, in order to attain this, we must forget about slogans and develop an awareness among the people. That is absolutely necessary. It seems to me that we must talk about economic integration first because it would be just too much if we first tried to forget about slogans and seek a political integration. We must first seek to attain economic integration. The moment we attain this, we must seek other goals, other ways of attaining political unity.

These processes have always taken a long time anywhere in the world, and they have proved difficult. However, the people are the only ones who can carry out these processes. The peoples can make this miracle possible, even quicker than in Europe. The Europeans, who fought among themselves for many centuries, had to abandon this sport and now the Germans, Belgians, French, and all the other countries that went to war quite frequently trade with each other, have a common market, a European Parliament, and are advancing toward a certain political unity. I think that if we achieve our initial goals and even achieve economic integration, we will be able to advance more or less quickly toward political integration. I harbor many hopes about the struggle we must wage immediately because it will unite us and will create the necessary conditions for economic integration.

Of course, we must continue to struggle. I could not really outline a program for economic integration for you right now. Once must meditate a lot about this and the ways to attain this integration. However, no economic integration will advance among us if we continue to be Yankee colonies. How can you attain Latin American integration [laughs] if we continue to be Yankee colonies? If we do not shake off the colonial domination? If we do not create the conditions for this, we will never attain economic or political integration. They want us to be their clients, produce to sell them products that they are interested in, and to sell us all they want to. What a sad history for this hemisphere, really. That is the sad truth! See how they have treated us and kept us divided. It took us 150 years to discover that we are less independent than ever. We are less independent than ever, but I also think that we are much closer to freedom than ever.

[Moderator] Panama. Either you, Norma, or Turner. Jorge Turner or Norma. One of you only.

[Norma] Commander, we would like to know. A covert war has been carried out against Contadora and there is increasing skepticism about the possibility that the Contadora Group can really attain a negotiated solution in Central America. Do you believe that the Contadora Group is still capable of attaining that goal and if the Central American isthmus, and after that the continent, may use this as a vehicle to establish a new international economic order?

[Castro] I believe that the Contadora Group should continue to struggle.

The Contadora Group has not been successful because the United States has exerted itself to sabotage any possibility of attaining a peaceful political agreement in Central America. It is difficult for the Contadora Group member countries to be successful as long as the United States maintains its policy of sabotage. The United States does not want a solution because the United States wants to annihilate the Sandinist revolution and wants to eliminate the last vestige of rebellion in El Salvador. The United States will not attain this goal, even if that man [presumably Reagan] is crazy and becomes crazier than a goat. He will never attain this goal because he will never be able to annihilate the Salvadoran revolution, that is inconceivable, and he will never annihilate the Nicaraguan revolution, no matter what he does.

We must admit that the Nicaraguans are putting up heroic resistance despite their difficult situation. They are facing serious economic problems and are being attacked on their two borders. They are facing all sorts of problems. However, they maintain their system, continue their struggle, increase their forces, acquire experience, and face the economic, military, and political problems. Of course, they are receiving international cooperation.

The most infamous and demagogic thing I have seen recently is what they did with Nicaragua. The way they manipulated Daniel Ortega's trip to the USSR. Daniel Ortega had to go to the USSR, it was a trip that had been scheduled weeks in advance. He went there to discuss a very important matter: oil. In the past Mexico had been supplying half the oil Nicaragua needed. Mexico gave Nicaragua easy credit and under very generous conditions. Mexico gave Nicaragua half the oil it needed and since the triumph of the Sandinist revolution, it gave Nicaragua credit for approximately $600 million. This in no way is a criticism of Mexico. We know Mexico is facing economic problems and that it has had to decrease its oil production. The price of oil has decreased. Mexico has an enormous debt and found it impossible to continue supplying oil to Nicaragua under those conditions. Nicaragua was penniless and had already been guaranteed its oil supply for May. The USSR was giving Nicaragua part of that oil, almost half of the supply. Nicaragua was going to be without the oil it needed and without the money to buy it.

Debates were being held in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. However, no one knew when this would be. An interview was requested. A matter such as this had to be handled by the president. No one knew when the voting was going to be held in Congress, the Senate. He also had to visit other countries. In October, late that year, in November, at the CEMA meeting we suggested that they needed help. This help does not guarantee that the country will not be invaded, but we fulfilled our moral duty to help a country being attacked, suffering a dirty war. Imperialism wants to destroy the revolution from within. This must be prevented. We must offer them a relatively large amount of aid. However, because of the dirty war, production was affected to an even greater degree. The coffee, sugar, basic grain, cotton, lumber, and fish production were affected, and Nicaragua saw itself needing to request additional economic aid. But above all, they had to solve the problem of oil.

It just so happened that his trip and the vote in Congress coincided. That was when the House and the Senate opposed Reagan. Daniel travels abroad to negotiate economic aid and oil. He does this as the most natural thing in the world. Since when has it been a crime, or a reason for war, for the government of a country to travel abroad and visit another country to request economic aid? This is what the whole world does every day.

So Daniel went on his trip and met with Gorbachev. They met and greeted each other, and Reagan used this meeting.

He manipulated the meeting; launched a big campaign, made it an example, and placed senators in an embarrasing situation -- especially those who opposed him. To give you an example of the Yankee system's weakness, and the opposition's weakness, all this manipulation worked in such a way that a few weeks later Reagan once again proposed aid to the counterrevolution and those weak and cowardly politicians voted in favor of it. There were some who stood firm, and we must admit that many Democrats remained firm, but there were enough who changed sides. What was most unfair was the way they manipulated the trip. Such was the manipulation that even some Latin American governments were fooled and said that Daniel should not have gone to Moscow. Where was he going to get the oil from? How would Nicaragua's economy, transportation, and industry operate if Daniel did not travel to negotiate for this oil and for this economic aid in the USSR and other socialist countries and capitalist countries? This has been one of the most outrageous examples of political manipulation we have seen.

I feel that the Nicaraguans were partly to blame for this. They should have clearly explained the situation to avoid any confusion. They should have explained how the trip was organized, where he was visiting, and why. Apparently, out of consideration for Mexico, for fear of hurting Mexico, they did not explain. I feel that this can be explained like I have explained it since I know all that happened. This could have been done without hurting Mexico; on the contrary, it could have been done recognizing Mexico's generosity and all that Mexico did for Nicaragua in the past 5 years.

We understand the difficulties Mexico is facing. We also know that Mexico has been the most solid supporter within the Contadora Group. Then why has there been no peace? Why has the Contadora Group not been able to achieve peace? Because the United States has sabotaged peace. It is a long story, and I know that story very well.

When the Contadora Group drafted a document in which Nicaragua had to give in to many things, Nicaragua gave in. They did this to achieve peace, and the Yankees did not accept this. They thought the Nicaraguans would not sign the document, and when they saw that the document had been signed, they changed their minds and said no. They said the document needed changes. What was there to change?

Well, the Yankees wanted military bases in Honduras. They wanted to have a right to hold military maneuvers in Honduras. They wanted to have the right to have advisers in El Salvador and Central America. However, Nicaragua was solemnly promising not to have foreign bases. It gave up holding maneuvers with foreign forces. It gave up having advisers. It was willing to give up everything. Nicaragua has made many concessions. Nicaragua's elections were scheduled for 1985, and they moved them up because they were asked to do this. They held a direct vote election. They [the Sandinists] won 70 percent of the votes. I can assure you that if the elections had been like the elections in the UK they would have won with 100 percent of the Assembly seats. When the elections are held by district and you win a majority in all the districts then no other party has a right to a seat. That is if the elections were like those held in the UK. However, they had a direct vote election and a proportional vote. If it would have been in the UK, the opposition would not have won a single seat. They won more than 50 percent throughout the country.

They decided to hold their elections, and the U.S. boycotted the elections. They threw a bucket of cold water on Nicaragua. Because of U.S. pressures many did not attend Daniel's inauguration. More people voted in the Nicaraguan election than voted during a U.S. election. He won more votes than Reagan did. The various leftist parties won 70 percent of the votes. Yet Reagan said that these elections were not valid.

However, the elections in El Salvador were valid; Pinochet's elections are valid; South Africa's elections are valid; all elections are valid. This is shameless and cynical. In a cynical manner the United States -- in a cynical manner the elephant -- has opposed peace in Central America.

What can a group of countries, filled with goodwill, do to resolve this? Nicaragua had no other alternative but to entrench themselves. The defense of the homeland is a matter for the people of each country, and only the people of each country can defend their homeland. No one else will defend it for them, and the homeland cannot be defended with diplomatic formulas. The homeland is defended with patriotism, weapons, courage, and heroism. This is where the Nicaraguans are. It could be that the Yankees sabotaged everything else, but the Sandinist revolution is still standing. If they launch an invasion against Nicaragua, they are going to find themselves in a very serious bind.

We must persuade them not to commit this idiocy. Because if they do commit that idiocy, of course, they will fail. However it will be paid for with Nicaraguan blood, with rivers of Nicaraguan blood. Then this is what I tell them: You are going to play with fire beside a keg of gunpowder. An invasion of Nicaragua is planned, but we are not living in the year 1927 or 1965. They are going to make this continent explode. We have told them. I think we have to say it and repeat it, so they will not commit the crime of invading that country. They will fail there, because Nicaragua has the same concept of defense that we do, but we do not gain anything if they suffer a defeat in a river of Nicaraguan blood. That is why we must multiply our solidarity with Nicaragua, denounce all of this, and try to dissuade them from committing the crime of invading that country. They use threatening language and anyone who reads wire dispatches knows it. It is unheard-of and gross, thanks to this trigger-happy, half-crazed individual. [presumably Reagan] But I repeat, regardless of whether he is as crazy as a loon, they are not going to put an end to the Salvadoran or Nicaraguan revolutions. That is what I can tell you. [applause]

[Moderator] We have received several requests from Uruguayan delegates who want to ask some questions. Castillo, who is at the back, Bignole, another companero. Decide, who, Castillo?

[Castro] Ask me a difficult question.

[Moderator] Uruguay.

[Unidentified questioner] Commander.

[Castro] Where is Castillo?

[Castillo] Here I am. Hello. Commander, you know the incident of the video that the Uruguayan women companeras took, those who attended the meeting here.

[Castro] Didn't you mention this yesterday?

[Castillo] Yes, but...

[Castro, interrupting] Oh, you are explaining it to those who were not at the meeting.

[Castillo] Yes, for those who went out for coffee.

[Castro] All right, excuse me.

[Castillo] Then, with the cooperation, surely with the complicity of Radio Havana...

[Castro, interrupting] Is it true that Coca Cola paid for the program? Someone told me that, is that so?

[Castillo] No, that is not true.

[Castro] It is not true then...

[Castillo] No. [laughs]

[Castro] Then they deceived me.

[Castillo] ...And with the Cuban television. You said it was an extraordinary success. You spoke there about the foreign debt. After 4 days of enrichening the congress and to enlighten us a little more on the new international economic order, what is your view and your ideas about implementing it today. This question is more than anything for the sake of the Uruguayan people, who will certainly see you and listen to you. This is Ruben Castillo on behalf of the Uruguayan delegation for several newspapers and radio stations.

[Castro] The new order was approved at the United Nations. It was the result of an effort by the nonaligned countries, the Third World countries. The new order was approved, as was the letter of the economic rights and duties of the states. It is an agreement of a very general nature which analyzes all of these problems of the unequal trade, protectionism, dumping [preceding word in English], a group of factors, which was supported again by the great majority of the United Nations members. A document of this scope has to be somewhat general.

We much enrich this new order, give it content. I have said in this interview, for example, that solidarity must be one of the principles of the new order, because there are still a lot of countries with such difficult conditions and so few resources that they will need international cooperation, even if this new order is established, protectionism ceases, dumping [preceding word in English] ceases, they pay us what our merchandise is worth, and there is really a world policy of development. Otherwise, they cannot develop. We could cite many countries in this situation and countries that are in better situations.

For example, Mexico could invest $350 billion in 10 years with what it is paying for the debt. Because for each dollar in convertible currency, a country can invest $2, $3, sometimes $4, but it has to employ that currency in the imported components of a factory. I am sure that Brazil can perhaps invest $4 for each dollar, because most of the products are now produced in the country. The other structures, manpower, cement, and at the last minute you probably have to buy abroad those materials or equipment of certain technology which cannot be produced in the country since some industries require more imports than others. If you are going to build a textile factory, you buy the machinery, but the construction of the factory may cost more than the machinery of the textile industry. A country such as Mexico has $12 billion a year, that is $120 billion, and with $120 billion it can engage in a program of $350 billion investment in 10 years.

Of course, why do I say that a new order is necessary? Because if a country is paid less each time for what it produces and is charged more, the situation becomes more difficult, even if the debt is not paid. That is, the conditions that led to development, sacking, and exploitation persist. [sentence as heard]

Then both things have to be added, but then the country starts out. Let us imagine that there is a new order, and Mexico does not need to borrow a single penny from anybody for development. Brazil does not need to borrow a single penny from anybody to develop. Argentina does not need to borrow a single penny. Ecuador does not need to borrow a penny from anybody. Colombia, possibly, does not need to borrow a penny from anybody. There are many countries. There are others and there will be a few more which, if their income increased, would reduce the number of countries that need foreign credit for development.

However, there are others that even with a new order will undoubtedly need investment, such as Bolivia, which is a country of resources, including gas and other minerals. Let us suppose that it got paid higher prices for its tin and other exported products. It would have more possibilities. However, Bolivia most probably will continue to require a large amount of foreign assistance.

There are countries, such as Santo Domingo [as heard], that perhaps need aid. There are countries, such as Jamaica, that continue to need foreign assistance. There are countries, such as Nicaragua, that will continue to need foreign assistance even if there is a new economic order, even if they cancel their debt.

There are many countries that need it. Uruguay possibly needs it, too. Although Uruguay is a country of resources, it may continue to need aid. That is why we maintain that international solidarity must work for a new order and shape it, continue to work, complementing the principles of the new order with concrete ideas. But to achieve this new order, political unity must first of all be achived, and not just in theory. To achieve a new order requires a close unity of all the Latin American and Third World countries, because unity is what renders the political strength to discuss things in the United Nations, to discuss things everywhere. Furthermore, this industrialized world needs to be shaken. Otherwise, it does not discuss, it does not speak. There is no new order. Although this was approved 10 years ago, they do not want to hear mention of it. I see clearly that the means to shake it up is the debt, but a big, big shake is needed to establish this new order. We must generate strength and unity of action to demand that this industrialized world give us the new order. If we do not generate that new strength we cannot obtain it with speeches. They will not pay attention to us, they will laugh at us. Then, you will say, there is no hope unless we achieve that unity, there is no hope unless we do what we must to resolve our problems. I say there is hope.

If the debt is not canceled and there is no new order, then there will be revolutions. Then the new order will come on the revolutionary path. Right now. [applause] There are countries that have such resources and such strength. Venezuela, almost by itself, can finance itself by investing its resources well. Brazil is almost a world by itself. Brazil has 135 million inhabitants and 8.5 or so million square kilometers of territory. Brazil has resources. Brazil is an integrated society, but even Brazil needs Latin American integration and even Brazil, no matter how big, needs the unity of the Third World countries. I know how Africans and many countries think. I can assure you that in this battle we can have an enormous number of allies. I also propose that we need the alliance of the workers, masses, and the public opinion of the industrialized capitalist world. Because, what is the industrialized capitalized world offering public opinion? Death, nuclear war. In those countries that do not have the miseries of our countries, the obsession is peace. The obsession is unemployment.

We are proposing formulas to conciliate our interests and the interests of public opinion, the workers, the people of the United States, Britain, Japan, and Europe. I am talking of peoples. What we do not conciliate is the interests of our people with the system prevailing there.

It gives us more moral authority. We are telling them: This is going to happen. We tell everyone, there is the path. If you do not want traumatic changes or violence, let us resolve it through this course. But since the crisis is very serious, even if there is no progress on this path, the awareness needed to take the other path will be created. There will be solutions in any case. We must not get discouraged.

Now that we are making this great peaceful effort, I will complement it with a number of ideas. For me the essential thing is that the debt can give us the unity and the strength to discuss things with them on equal terms. If this does not occur, then we have no other recourse but to revolutionize this world, which is what we are going to do. We have confidence in the peoples. Ah, if you communicate this message to the masses, what will happen? It is in your hands, journalists. You are precisely the apostles for the solution of this problem. I think that you are the key to taking this message to the people. The possibilities will then increase.

The problem is not technical. It is political. It is not diplomatic. It is political. It is a matter of strength. If these demands are not accepted, then there will have to be a confrontation between the Third World and the industrialized capitalist world. I am sure that in this confrontation we will have the support of the socialist countries, but there is something more. What will Sweden do? I am sure Sweden will support us. What will Greece do? I am sure Greece will support us. What will Spain do? I do not think it will join the Yankees against Latin America and the Third World. What will France do? I am not sure France will join the United States against Latin America and the Third World. We have many potential allies for one reason or another. There are great contradictions among the members of the industrialized, capitalist world. Therefore the problem is not a technical one. It is a question of force. Again the need arises for us to meet, now that we are having difficulties. We must work together. That is why we keep telling the governments: We must meet and work togther. Of course, the responsibility lies primarily with the governments. However, one thing is for sure: One way or another, the people will impose this new order. Naturally, that is my greatest hope.

I have confidence in the masses, I have confidence in the peoples, I know they are aware of these realities. This is not a theory, this is not Utopia. People are dying of poverty, of hunger. We are not going to let people starve to death. Latin America has to be the leader of this struggle, because it is stronger, it has more development, it has more political weight, it even has more political awareness; it has more popular sectors, workers, peasants, students, intellectuals, middle classes.

Everyone has to work on this, not just journalists. Labor unions, students, peasant organizations, political parties -- of the left, in the first place; of the center, and even conservative sectors, if possible -- must all work, because we are all in the same boat, and the boat is sinking. If the boat sinks, it makes no difference if you are a Muslim, Christian, Marxist, rich, or poor; the fact is that the boat is sinking. We need sensible, calm people to understand that the boat must be saved, or that we must save the people who are in the boat. The actual crisis is what is going to provide for this unity -- and the fact that the boat is sinking.

I have talked to all sorts of people. I once received a Uruguayan conservative. He was a big, young, strong man, weighing about 240 lb. He came here; after the democratic opening, he quickly came over here. He was not even discreet about visiting here. He publicly announced he was going to Cuba. I started talking to him and asked him what the problem was.

He told me: This is terrible, we owe $5 billion, we only export $1 billion -- correction, they used to export, because they exported only $270 million during the first 4 months. They are now at the level of 800 [million dollars]. Uruguayan exports have dropped considerably. They barely reach $800 million, and they owe $5 billion. He then proceeded to tell me that the textile market has been affected by the protectionist measures of the United States, beef has been affected by the EEC's dumping [preceding word in English], and then I asked the conservative -- well, he tells me he is a conservative, but I do not believe that, because there are hardly any conservatives left -- look, is there any remedy? He answered me: If we integrate ourselves, if we unite, all in general terms.

Then, I half-joked about it and talked half-seriously with him and told him; I told comrade: The problem is so serious that not even a revolution can solve it. Look, if you socialize everything tomorrow, if you nationalize everything, you still cannot solve your problem. I think revolutions can always do something. I had to emphasize this, to tell him that I thought the objective conditions were so difficult that not even a radical revolution could help him. What can a small isolated country do, a country that owes $5 billion [laughs] and whose markets -- textiles, wool, beef, of all products -- have been taken away? What can a country like that do? This is one of the things that have made me ponder, and that is why I insist so much that conditions must be created in a country such as this one so it can make social changes through a revolution. If they stage a revolution tomorrow, they will be able to distribute the cattle better. You will be able to provide shoes for the children. Many things can be done, even in a poor country, with a revolution. However, then where are you going to export the beef? They will have to eat it. It is better to eat it than to starve to death, of course. Beef is exported as a luxury, in order to take pleasure trips, to save money abroad, and all of those things. However, the situation is very difficult. Now then, this conservative -- who claims he is a conservative, of the Conservative Party, and whom I feel is a great person -- when he told me all this, I asked him: Listen, are you a conservative? He says: Yes, I am a conservative. Then I told him: If you are a conservative, then I, too, am a conservative. [applause]

This is a matter of life and death for the various sectors. Now, let me tell you, there are many people in the church who are worried about this. There are many institutions worried about this. I know how the Christians think. I know how many Catholic groups feel about this. I think the churches are going to agree on this, and support this battle; I am convinced of that.

Many groups everywhere are concerned about this, because this is a reality, this is a part of a reality, this is not part of utopia. It is the harsh, visible, objective, tangible reality.

Then, we have the case of Uruguay. I reached the same conclusion, much faster than that of Brazil, in spite of the fact that Brazil is a large country. The small- or medium-size countries desperately need this solution more than the others who have more resources. Some can solve things with both things, the debt and the new order. Then, there are others who can solve nothing, even with that. However, it would increase the number of countries who could finance themselves.

Now, the new order was conceived as a series of principles that must be put into practice. However, it is very important to us that 10 years ago the United Nations should have discussed and approved these principles giving them legal strength. We must say, remember this, the new order, not a new order, because the imperialists themselves say there is a new order, and all the theoreticians and defenders of this new order have even discussed this formula. It is the new order, referring to the new order approved 10 years ago by the United Nations, and not this order imposed by the imperialists.

Then we must work to collect that material including articles and perhaps speeches. We believe that among other things, we must gather all this material so that those ideas may gain force, and specifically explain the principles of this new international economic order. We must get down to work and develop ideas. There is still much to do. Perhaps our institute of economy might collect all that material, the letter of rights and duties of the nations, the documents on the new international economic order. However, much more must be collected, ideas must be formulated and so forth. We must work hard to gather all that information. [applause]

[Moderator] Before we take the question of the next colleague, I have just been informed that this press conference is being transmitted directly by the National Radio Network of Panama to that nation. [applause]

[German Flores, in the name of the Colombian delegation] Commander, on repeated references to the Contadora Group, to which Colombia belongs, you euphemistically talked about love letters. Do you think that the Latin American countries will be able to attain similar achievements regarding unity on nonpayment of the overwhelming foreign debt? If you do not mind, when was your last telephone conversation with Colombian President Betancur?

[Castro] This is one way of putting things: I followed everyone's statements very closely. For example, when the democratic process was taking place in Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil, I closely followed the statements of the new leaders during their trips to Europe and the United States. All these leaders proposed three things, and without any exception, all these leaders made these very broad statements: That they are unwilling to pay the foreign debt at the expense of the people, of the people's hunger; that they are unwilling to pay the foreign debt -- to solve their problem -- at the expense of a recessive policy; and that they were unwilling to pay the foreign debt at the sacrifice of development. That is to say, that top political leaders have clearly spoken out on these three premises. However, there is still no way of achieving these goals, without placing the burden of the foreign debt on the shoulders of the people; without engaging in a recessive policy and without sacrificing development. For that reason all the political leaders have proposed these basic premises. I followed the formation of the Contadora Group. I think that if Contadora, rather, the Cartagena Consensus, I think that it was a mistake to limit the Cartagena Consensus to only 11. I have asked, why only 11? Why were the other countries excluded? Why are some countries in that group and others not? The only reason given was that the largest debtors were included, when the real reason was cowardliness, hesitation. I talked with Iglesias, [Uruguayan foreign minister] who is former Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA] director and current Argentine foreign minister [as heard]. He was in Cuba and he told me that the number had to be kept to 11 because discussions are easier and more practical. In essence, because the imperialists, the creditors who form a closed club -- the Paris Club -- the IMF do not want debtor countries to form a group, they put pressures on such groupings so that the debtor countries do not form an association to represent their interests. I feel that to limit the Cartagena Consensus to 11 was to make an unnecessary concession. It was unnecessary because the group would be stronger if all the countries were involved, and would say we do not represent 11 but rather 25 countries, big and small. Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and all other Central American countries were excluded. Cuba is not included, but we did not bring up the issue because we did not want it to appear as if Cuba had a specific interest. We have been ostracized for a long time; and we have learned to live with it; we have learned to work and strive in ostracism. In sum, the group was limited. I have read all the letters, the ones sent to the IMF during its spring meeting. I noted three things. I believe that in one of these letters, there were two key elements. The signatories asked for a fund to repay countries whenever the interest became too high. The second thing they asked for was that the IMF's basic funds be expanded by $15 billion so the IMF could have a little bit more money to lend.

There were other things, yet the key elements were: To insure against interest rate hikes, and an expansion of the IMF's resources. They settled that in 15 minutes. Yet nobody paid any attention to this. There was a great deal of expectation, hopes, and so forth about their meetings and nobody paid any attention to them. They were laughed at and told that their plan was no good. They did not pay the least attention to the Cartagena Group. Afterwards, there was a meeting in Bonn and the meeting raised hopes. The group wrote a letter in stronger terms than the one [Julio Maria] Sanguinetti had written on behalf of the group. The letter was more serious and forceful.

I also know what happened in the FRG a few days earlier. They met with the Latin American ambassadors. Truthfully, the FRG officials hinted that they were very interested... [rephrases] Everybody is interested in Central America. You cannot imagine how many godfathers Latin America has. The West Germans were genuinely interested in Latin America and said that they were prepared to send a message, in fact, putting the blame on Yankees. They implied that they were to blame for all these problems and thus they were willing to help. Fine. Then the meeting was held. The letter was there. However, there was no immediate response. The Germans met with the Latin Americans again after the meeting. By then the Uruguayan representative, who was exasperated, asked when they would receive an answer. They replied that they could not answer until they talked with the summit group and the entire EEC. That took a long time and still they did not answer. The FRG replied on behalf of the group, and then Japan, the United States, [as heard], everyone wrote, but nothing happened. They paid no attention. They said that even the summit countries disagreed: Japan and Europe, United States and Japan, United States and Europe. They were unable to resolve the differences. The French, the United States wanted a GATT meeting to discuss tariffs and trade.

While they were meeting in Bonn, a wave of protectionism was emerging from the United States. It came from within the Congress, spurred by the advanced technical industries. The electronics and chemical industries, which have never asked for protection, are now supporting protectionism. While Reagan in Bonn was fighting for a GATT meeting, in the United States, right on his home turf, the protectionist wave was gaining ground in Congress. I cannot even remember now. There are dozens of proposals in the Congress to reduce the trade exchange. There are many protectionist measures promoted and defended by industrial leaders, senators, representatives, and everyone. They were not resolved because the French opposed that meeting on trade and said that there had to be two simultaneous meetings: a trade meeting and a meeting on monetary affairs. The Yankees did not want that. Then they got a letter from the Andean Pact, which received no reply. I call these little love letters. They will not get any attention so long as they continue writing little love letters. A rejected boyfriend even gets more attention that the rich industrialized nations gave to the Andean Pact's letters. What will make them pay more attention? This struggle we are waging, these meetings. If they are scared enough they will pay attention.

I have here an article written by Kissinger and published in the LOS ANGELES TIMES. It says: A Marshall Plan for Latin America; the request by 11 hemispheric countries at the Bonn meeting; these nations cannot be ignored. Now isn't that a coincidence. It goes on to say: The problem of the excessive debt in Latin America; the frustration and lack of hope can well lead to populism that will reject the free enterprise system; Fidel Castro's conduct: Are new relations necessary? Here he talks about the new order. The creation of a development program for the Western Hemisphere: A condescending paternalistic focus must be avoided. The hope for the new and oftentimes fragile South American democracies, by Henry Kissinger. This is one of their most brilliant and intelligent men.

Take note of this. It says here: Quote, it is not by chance that Cuba's Fidel Castro has presented the debt problem in a moderate way, to his standards. He sees in the debt problem an opportunity to become the spokesman for widespread discontent. Showing concern for this Latin American cause allows Castro to obtain respect in Latin America and continue being a revolutionary by undermining the relations of the United States with its southern neighbors. To ignore or detract importance from the call by the 11 Latin American presidents is therefore, extremely dangerous. In Brazil and Argentina the payments on interest alone nearly equal 45 percent of their export revenues. For Mexico, the amount is a little under 40 percent. Therefore, the current focus has the paradoxical effect of making developing nations in dire need of investment into capital export countries. I am not arguing the financial validity of this focus. What I question is its political adequacy and viability. Most of the Latin American governments have reacted to the crisis with courage and determination. The drastic reform program recently announced by President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina is a good example of this. The banks and international financial institutions that have conducted the debt negotiations are not totally to blame. They have reached the limit of what profit-making organizations can sustain or what international organization charters will allow. Paul Volker, chief of the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank, heroically and practically on his own, has kept things under control in the United States. But these institutions cannot fill the vacuum created by the lack of action by Western governments that keep themselves aloof from a process that can crucially affect the political stability of the Western hemisphere, unquote.

They have already begun to build their awareness. During many months they believed we were engaged in a public relations campaign, that we were seeking to improve our diplomatic relations. Actually, for the past 6 and 1/2 months we have been working uninterruptedly -- we devoted ourselves to Cuban affairs during the last months of last year: the economy, its efficiency, and all those things. We are obtaining excellent results. And on defense. However, the first 6 and 1/2 or 7 months of this year have been totally devoted to this task. We have been working quietly, conducting many exchanges and making contacts. And I have used all those newspapers to inform you about only part of this struggle. Now they are getting worried. That is why Shultz met with the Latin Americans on the 4th. It was unusual. He met with Latin American ambassadors, except the Cuban, being careful not to invite that guy from the confederation of terror. They are terrified of something else [laughter], they are afraid of this problem because they have seen that it greatly unites peoples and harnesses much power. Its potential power is enormous.

However, Volker's number two man, Martin, has made similar statements and theses which can already be observed among the ranks of imperialism's spokesmen: Those theses are coming closer to the thesis we have proposed. They mention the World Bank's taking charge of those loans and bonds. They are looking for solutions. Naturally, we must not be content with theorists. This does not mean I am radical. I want to convince these gentlemen of that. Kissinger himself admits that when he says that my terms are comparatively moderate. I can be accused of being a moderate, not a radical. We are not proposing subversion but demands and rebellion against this economic order. It must be crushed. We must unite our forces. This thesis has a very broad scope. However, I repeat: Only when they get scared do they begin to think and propose solutions. If we show them power, they will sit down to negotiate. But when we sit down to negotiate, the peoples will have to take part in the process. This will take some time, so that the whole affair is not resolved in petty compromises. This is important.

We must sit down to solve things, not to accept a pittance, a charity, a small formula that tides us over for 6 months, 1 year, 2 years, or 3 years.

The least we can do is demand a 10-year moratorium, including the interest, because what they should have said is that the debt must be annuled, repudiated. We must first calculate things, take a calculator, a computer, and all the calculations are turned upside down, everything becomes confused and cannot be paid. Well, I have given you some information, although you had some data. [laughs] I had them lying around. I will leave them with you.

I tell you, the problem cannot be solved with love letters, sweet talk, friendly language, or even strong language, if you do not sit down and discuss things. It is possible that the struggle we are proposing will cause them to meditate and to sit down to discuss things. However, we should not be confident of this. We need guarantees that the talks will be useful and solve the problem and not accept palliatives or charity. This is what it's all about. Now then, I said yesterday that [words indistinct] in Latin America, to explain it the way I was saying, we need, at $1 a second, 11,574 [unit not identified] to calculate the debt.

We must deal with two things: What we owe and what must be paid in interest over 10 years. I have calculated how long Latin America will need to pay its interest; it will need 12,860 [words indistinct] and a little bit more, perhaps 1 month and a few days. If we say 100, as I said, then 128 and 1/2 years would be needed; approximately 128 years and 7 months.

Latin America has an area of 20,557 [corrects himself] 20,555 million square km; Latin America is almost as large as the Soviet Union. It is enormous. See how many square km this is. If you want to count them 1 by 1, it would take you more than 6 months...to count 20,555 million sq km; not saying them like that, but counting them 1 per second. Well, Latin America has to pay $19,460 per square km in interest in 10 years. Latin America has to pay $194.60 per hectare, per hectare [repeats himself] over 10 years in interest. We will see another case. Everyone knows that Recaro, of the Andarapa village, talked here about the protein and calories they consume -- approximately 1,800 calories, I think. Well, I calculated that the amount we pay in interest could be used to give Latin America, calculating that there are 400 million inhabitants, although there are slightly less in Latin America and the Caribbean -- at the current price of wheat and calculating the protein, calories, and vitamins that wheat provides -- 3,500 calories per day, which are more than necessary [words indistinct] 135 grams of protein per day, for 17 years, for 400 million people. That is what they are asking us to pay in interest! I ask myself, are they serious? This cannot possibly be solved. We must state this clearly. The more intelligent ones have already begun to understand it. You are now aware of the rules of the game.

The Latin American countries' problem is to carry out the struggle properly to underscore important objectives and not accept small concessions that do not solve the problem; this is an important thing. Now then...not even...but...of course, even those who criticize us are now going around stating their concern because Cuba... [rephrases] They say, well, let Cuba help us, but not too much. They are afraid to let Cuba help; but we really help, we are altruistic. The first thing that they did to us [laughs] was to take away our sugar quota, and we are not even protesting about that. Many people received things at the expense of the Cuban revolution. Concern grew about Latin America's situation following the revolution. Despite everything, the fear is so great it has led to worry. There are a few low-level movements, but I am not concerned. The reply is there in yesterday's material. I saw it, I reviewed it, and I specified some ideas so that you may take it with you. I want you to take that material, those two interventions. You know that I did not invent those interventions.

A comrade asked me: What about that queston, did you agree with it? How could I not agree with the question? However, the second one is important because it responds to a Yankee maneuver.

They are moving quickly. Some agencies have actually approached leaders to ask them questions. Diaz Rangel reflected that clearly. Hey, what is your opinion about Castro's statements? He is asking a government official who cannot say he agrees with them because he is renegotiating his country's debt and that would create a contradiction. They are in no condition to talk; the Yankees are moving, they are moving now. They are doing everything possible to sabotage the union meeting scheduled for the 15th. I imagine that they will do everything possible to sabotage the meeting scheduled for the 30th, but they will not succeed. That is a fact. However, they are going around digging up things, running in circles and creating concern, saying that Castro this, and that Castro... [rephrases] In the beginning it was a public relations campaign, a diplomatic campaign. Others believe I am participating in a popularity contest; others believe I am so foolish to be concerned about matters related to national or personal prestige and am busy with all those silly things I did not think about even when I was 15 years old.

However, we are firm about this struggle; firm and fully convinced. I said we were ready to hand over the banner. We are ready. If anyone wants the banner we will hand it over with the greatest pleasure. There is only one condition: Do what must be done and do not betray the banner. We are involved in this battle, which we have been fighting for reasons of principle. As we have told you, this battle did not begin yesterday. This is not something we discovered. Remember -- I do not know of the UN speech...

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] We have it?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, we have it.

[Castro] When are you distributing it to them?

[Unidentified speaker] We must first give it to the invited delegates because there are not that many.

[Castro] There are not that many, well, give them the UN one, so that they can try to unravel the knot; that was back in 1969. That speech had a great impact in the United Nations. I want you to know that the United Nations was full. I want you to know that they applauded 20-odd times, that everyone agreed. The Third World was unanimous on this, but the time was not right because we were requesting $300 billion. Even Cuba offered... [rephrases] Cuba did not request anything for itself. We said we were ready to assist with an important amount, not in money but in technical personnel, engineers, and doctors. We said that even developing countries of certain level... [rephrases] We said that at least $300 billion was needed, but we had already foreseen that. We said that at the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, in New Delhi.

This is nothing new. Some think that this was invented by Cuba in 1985 -- when the diabolical imperialist invention has created a catastrophe and the elephant fell into the hole. That is the truth. Well, I said: Given the concern that prevails, I believe that this material must be divulged -- the first one and the second one. The first one, as Santana said, because some people might be confused and do not know what to do. However, the Chileans are facing a much more difficult test, they have Pinochet there. That means a curfew, a state of siege, repression, and brutality for a long time. What would be the repercussions of a battle there? We have said that in this case, the opposition has to raise the banner.

The opposition has to create the conditions for change. It should demand those things from governments, even if the governments do not do them.

I do not want to talk about tactics anymore. But what the opposition or the left should do in countries like Guatemala, or El Salvador, or Chile, where you cannot be the opposition, is to implement different tactics. These should be different than those it can implement in countries where there is an opening, such as Uruguay, Chile, Brazil. The tactic cannot be the same... Uruguay, Brazil, and Argentina is what I meant to say. The leftist forces' tactics in these countries cannot be the same as in Chile. In some cases you have to try to persuade; in others you have to demand. In some cases you have to try to complicate their lives, in others you have to help solve the problems, to face the problems if they are disposed toward solving the problems. As a general rule, circumstances are different from one country to another. These are general norms. In these countries both the left and the democratic forces should pick up this banner. Let us take Chile for instance. What would the Chileans do if Pinochet drops dead tomorrow and the Army gets panicky and calls for a democratic opening or an election? What should the government do the next day? Assume the burden alone under a complete state of crisis?

We could talk a lot about these ideas. We could spend all night talking about this, but then you will miss going to the Tropicana. Besides, I should try and sleep a little, because I slept very little last night and I have a meeting tomorrow. I went to the Assembly this morning and I have to go tomorrow also. I will take a respite on Wednesday.

When was the last time I talked [words indistinct]? I tell you the truth. I do not think I am going to be indiscreet. It was during Holy Week. I wanted to exchange views [with Colombian President Belisario Betancur] on the problem of Central America, on Contadora. The Yankees are monitoring this telephone. They monitor every telephone call. They spend millions to monitor everything. I told him that by telephone we could not hold a serious conversation because the Yankees would be monitoring everything said. I asked him to send a person he trusted. He was already on his way back. He then sent Foreign Minister Ramirez Ocampo. Daniel [Ortega] was vacationing here with Ramirez Ocampo arrived, and they met here. Everyone knows it, I do not think I am being indiscreet.

We have had other contacts. We have sent most of this material to most governments. The governments with which we have formal or informal relations have all this material. All the democratic governments of this hemisphere have it.

[Francisco Guzman of El Salvador] I work for EL NUEVO DIARIO of Nicaragua. Commander Fidel Castro, I want you to pretend for a moment that you are the mastermind of imperialism [laughter] and that, in accordance with Castro's views and Latin America's dramatic reality, the countries of the region tell you that they have decided not to pay their debt and that they will struggle united for a new international economic order and to build a unity so as not to fall into your imperialistic claws again. Convinced that you will not recover your money, what would be the immediate and long-term future of your imperialist system? What would be the future of your imperialist system? What would be the future of the relations between the empire of these non-payers? What would be the future of these less dependent countries? [applause]

[Castro] Well, the first thing I would do is take an aspirin. [laughter, applause] If I were an old fox and cunning like the imperialists, I would seek new ways, unorthodox and untraditional.

It would not be the first time that imperialism would do it. In the 1930's the United States, imperialism, had a very serious crisis, coinciding with a world crisis. It was during the Roosevelt administration. He applied some theories, precisely those of British economist Keynes. There were many people going hungry and unemployed. He implemented a policy by which he increased public expenditures, public investments, and human resources. He did this to get the U.S. economy out of the crisis. He created the good neighbor policy. He took a number of actions which historically confirms that Roosevelt had much to do with prolonging the life of capitalism. Capitalism cannot be saved. However, on that occasion it was saved.

Reagan is the antithesis of Roosevelt and Keynes. He is opposed to the policies they advocated. He would like to restore the capitalism that existed during the past century. It is unlikely that a person with such idea, with such a brutal, warmongering attitude, with fascist ideas about international demonation to impose order... [rephrases] Of course, I do not think that such an imperialist figure will find solutions. He would rather see us resigned to accepting the solutions imposed by him.

The man has another mentality, more cunning, more intelligent, more realistic. An imperialist leader would have to do everything necessary and possible to prolong the life of imperialism at a moment when it is running out of time and is being condemned by history. A case of pneumonia is not the same in a 25-year-old youth as it is in a man of 75, for whom a case of pneumonia is very serious. Imperialism is old and it is suffering from pneumonia. It must seek adequate and proper medicine. I think that this medicine still exists. First, imperialism must give up the mania of being the police force of the world. It must give up the idea of the red threat, of the communist threat, and the idea that the USSR wants to destroy it. Those who know the socialist countries like we do; those who know the USSR's intimate thoughts, know perfectly well that the USSR must arm itself because it has been forced to engage in an arms race and in taking military actions. It was surrounded by bases full of bombers and nuclear weapons and it had to make large weapons expenditures.

No socialist country needs to make any defense expenditure. It is crazy. We, who have to spend large sums on military expenditures, know all that we could with that much money: How many houses, schools, recreation centers, hotels, factories, and hospitals that could be built with the money that would be spent in a war. We know how much can be done with the 1 billion [currency not specified] we spend. We could build 100,000 houses with the money we spend on defense a year. What interest could a country have in wasting money that way? No socialist country, of course, needs to develop an arms industry. Its economy does not need military investment. In contrast, the capitalist and imperialist economy needs the war industry and the military investments, and all that. But, well, it is not an urgent need. What need does the United States have to spend 2 trillion, $2 trillion, on weapons? I explained that in that pamphlet, those who read it saw it, but those who did not have a chance to... [rephrases] I analyzed that very well. I said that with the much, one cannot produce a single aspirin. Do you know what it means to spend 2 trillion in 8 years, wasting it?

Meanwhile, the Japanese, who were banned -- they were lucky and someone banned them from making weapons -- spent their money on technology. They built an industrial base that is more productive than that of the United States. Do you know what they are doing now? They are buying up the world because there is such a large deficit... [rephrases] and this information is known because the finance minister [not further identified] published it. Japan has invested $90 billion in 3 years, but in 1984, it invested $50 billion, and now by the end of 1985, Japan will become the largest capitalist investor in the world. It even purchased approximately $23 million in bonds from the United States.

It invested 1.8 in the United States, 1.9 in Latin America, 1.8 in Africa, and a similar figure...about 2 there, and 3 in the United States. [sentence as heard]

Japan is buying, among other things, the United States. While Reagan is spending money on weapons and is preparing the "star wars" program, the Japanese already have 450 large enterprises in the United States. The Japanese are hard working, disciplined, industrious, and austere individuals. Japan is more austere, disciplined, industrious, and hard working than the United States. It invests...well, it no longer has to invest in technology to compete with the United States. It invested much and now it is buying. The Japanese are buying the world while Reagan is organizing star wars. Do you see? He is crazy. [laughter] You see this is crazy. He will spend 2 trillion. What need is there for it? Roosevelt wouldn't have done that. He would have sought peace and sincere and honest talks with the socialist sphere. He would have saved millions. He could have saved half of what he [presumably Reagan] is spending per year and no one would threaten the U.S. security ever. He would have lived in peace with the world. He could have forgotten his mania of being policeman of the world. He would have saved 150 billion and faced all these problems we are discussing. All this can be done with a peace policy. This is what I would do if I were the mastermind of imperialism. I would also try to survive because I would feel a bit old to be involved in all these adventures. [laughter and applause]

Then, I would support the new world economic order because it would give jobs to Americans. I would improve the purchasing capacity of the Third World so that they can have 300 billion or 400 billion [currency not specified] more. I would give jobs to all Americans and would not increase their taxes. I would not continue to mortgage the country. I would not continue to spend 2 billion [currency not specified]. I would not eliminate the budget that benefits the elderly, the children, or anyone else. I would not eliminate the health, education, and welfare budget. I wouldn't do that because Reagan is doing that to devote the funds to weapons and this is useless. In addition, even if he wants to control the world, he won't be able to do it. It is not possible for any country to control the world today. The world would be destroyed before it is controlled by anyone. We are living in the nuclear era. All this is a tremendous madness. Truthfully speaking, Reagan's ideas are of the Buffalo Bill era and not of the nuclear era, gentlemen. [laughter and applause]

The problem...[rephrases] Theoretically, there are solutions. There are still means. [Words indistinct] and not kill us and it would not prevent changes in the world. It would not prevent the end of imperialism. Imperialism should die of natural causes. Lest it commit suicide and we all get killed. We would all die in a nuclear war or bonfire. Scientists know what this means. They have said it: It is the end of life. I believe that the roaches will be the only ones to survive a nuclear war because they have more resistance to radiation.

Therefore, Salvadorans, the problem has a theoretical solution. But would not be very happy not to be in the shoes of the imperialists. I feel better here. [applause] This pamphlet has 26 pages. The title is -- it must have a title to differentiate it from others -- "This Debt Is Not Only Unpayable But In Addition It Is Uncollectible." This is the title for it. We will distribute it later on.

[Moderator] Andres Solis of Bolivia.

[Castro] Solis, will it be a very difficult question?

[Solis] Well, it will be a bit different. A few weeks ago, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the end of fascism in the world...

[Castro, interrupting] It wasn't 50, it was 40 years.

[Solis] ...40 years since the end of World War II. In the years prior to the second world war, there were several ideological trends, at least three, in Latin America. There was the German trend, a very small one financed by the German Embassy which wanted Latin America to become its ally...

[Castro, interrupting] So it would what?

[Solis] It wanted Latin America to become a German ally. There was a second trend, that of the allies, which sought, and this was achieved to a great extent, for Latin America to become an ally of the United States, the Soviet Union, and their allies. There was a third trend, the neutrality trend, which implied that in the conflict, Latin America should announce its neutrality, as General Peron somehow did, and sell its raw materials at high prices -- prices had gone up because of the war -- and obtain profits to become industrialized. In the light of your historical experience, which of these two latter trends was right in this ideological debate, the neutrality trend or the ally trend?

[Castro] [chuckles] In light of history and everything that has happened, it was impossible for any country to remain neutral in that war which began as an inter-imperialist war and wound up as a war against humankind and socialism. I truly believe... [rephrases] You are asking me a question on a topic I have not meditated on much, but, a posteriori, since we know everything that has happened, there is no doubt that in that struggle one had to take sides against fascism. It is a very complicated problem. I have meditated much. [sentence as heard] I think I have read all the books on that war from both sides. I have read all the books written by both sides, all the battles, and everything that happened. As a boy I liked that topic very much. I have an idea of how the world could have evolved under certain circumstances, what was done right and what was done wrong. But then you find out that 20 million Soviets died, many of them women and children who were murdered. Then you find out that of the 50 million people killed, 40 percent were Soviets and after the Soviets were the Poles, who lost 6 million, and many Jews were exterminated mercilessly. The communists were persecuted by Nazism throughout Europe. They vent their anger on them. When one knows all this history, it is impossible to think of another formula than fighting to extirpate fascism. We did that.

Look at the dangers we have now. We have a guy who thinks like Hitler. It wasn't in vain that he went to the Bitburg Cemetery to pay homage to the West there. It is incredible, after 40 years of history. The FRG pressured him to go there because they have vengeful ideas. There is no doubt that Reagan must think it was marvelous that 20 million Soviets were murdered. It is very logical considering his train of thought. A communist must be killed. A child in a socialist country must be murdered. A woman and an old man must be ... [rephrases] You must understand that the assassination of 20 million Soviets is in complete agreement with Reagan's thinking. So it is not strange that he went there to pay homage to the SS. It is terrible. He visited a cemetery where there are 100,000 Soviets buried and he did not mention the Soviet soldiers. Incredible! He had no words of recognition for the country that gave up 20 million lives.

Then, look, we are revolutionary, progressive, and democratic and must be in line with that idea. We cannot have a commercial mind and focus on whether we won more or less. We would be digressing to previous eras. However, that war was inter-imperialist, and in addition, fascism is an offspring of capitalism and imperialism. They begot it. The West helped Hitler. It gave him credit and aid. Hitler was the Pinochet of capitalism in Europe against communism. The communists had to be exterminated, but Hitler exterminated communists, Jews, democrats, and tried to exterminate the other capitalists, too.

Of course, there has been a tremendous change. Technology has created new conditions. Nuclear weapons have created new conditions. They have established that was the last war, or at least, surely, the penultimate because if there is a nuclear war, it will be the last one. There is no doubt. It would be the last war, no doubt. This danger exists, but I don't see any escape for any democratic person who is aware of all these problems.

Argentina was attacked quite a bit, but I don't think we must dwell any further on these historical matters because it would divide, instead of unite us. We must work on what should unite us and then, later on, you and I can philosophically discuss all these problems, not as a reporter but as a friend. [applause]

[Moderator] The Ecuadoran delegation would like to ask one question.

[Castro] There is a problem here. We have been here over 3 hours. How much longer will we be here? You will get tired, I will get tired. The girls are waiting for you at the Tropicana [laughter], also the cooks and everyone else are waiting for you. There might be many questions. This was the last question. It is impossible, [applause] I promise, [applause] Do you have a list? I prefer to look for future opportunities to answer the questions of these companeros. If there are 10 of them, I promise that before the end of the year I will grant you 10 interviews, one to each one, and in that way, we can talk and make up in another way... because this will be tiresome. You would be exhausted and I would be, too. We have discussed many things. Many ideas have been brought up. Would you agree?

[Reporter] Yes.

[Castro] Bring me the list of all those who didn't get to speak. [applause]

CASTRO INVITES LEADERS TO FOREIGN DEBT MEETING

FL152104 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has invited numerous leaders, political personalities, parliamentary members, academicians, intellectuals, economists, journalists, and union, peasant, and women's leaders to a meeting, which will begin on 30 July in Havana, and its only topic will be the analysis of the Latin American and Caribbean foreign debt in the context of the international economic crisis and its urgency without any attempt to reach agreements or resolutions.

According to the daily GRANMA, this is not a summit conference of heads of state, as has been insinuated, even though Fidel has invited several democratic presidents in the area as a courtesy gesture. The meeting is not directed against the efforts of the Cartagena Group or any other such group, as has been said by many of its detractors.

In one of its paragraphs, Castro's document notes the need for broadly discussing, without prior conditions or rigid positions, the region's ongoing crisis by all forces which need to confront it. The invitation to the dialogue made by Castro has already received wide acceptance from numerous outstanding personalities in our hemisphere whose participation will give the meeting an unquestionable historic validity and a great significance in the face of a profound economic and social crisis being endured by Latin America and the rest of the Third World.

The U.S. Government, principal creditor of Latin America and the Caribbean, has tried to discourage the meeting but all U.S. efforts have been and will be useless. It will doubtlessly be a great dialogue for exchanging views and for Latin American and Caribbean unity. Only the great looters and exploiters of other countries have reason to be nervous.

Debt Meeting Invitation

F1152045 Bridgetown CANA in English 2014 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 15, CANA -- Following is the unofficial English text of a letter sent by President Fidel Castro of Cuba to about 300 people, including top Caribbean personalities, inviting them to a conference on the region's debt situation from July 30-August 3.

The issue of foreign debt has become, unquestionably and unanimously admitted, the most important problem for the economy of Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole and the economies of each and everyone of our countries. The sum already amounting over U.S. 360 billion dollars that Latin American and the Caribbean owe to private banks, multilateral credit agencies and various developed countries' governments, weighs unbearably on the continent under the conditions of the internal economic situation.

Even in those countries with a smaller absolute debt or with a smaller per capita debt, a comparison between their export earnings and the servicing that debt demands, shows such an unfavourable result that the conviction that economic development is impossible under those circumstances. The seriousness of Latin American foreign debt becomes greater when one observes that it does not only stem from junctural situations that could change but that it is mainly derived from the structural nature of the economic relations between the underdeveloped countries and the developed capitalist countries, within which the whole of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean operate.

It is obvious that the international economic crisis that has been generated in the past few years in the developed capitalist economies -- whose effects we are suffering -- makes it more difficult for the countries of Latin America to meet the payment of their debts. But even in the unlikely case of an improved international economic situation, the fundamental problems of Latin America and the Caribbean would remain unsolved.

As long as unequal trade persists, imposing ruinous prices on our basic goods while constantly raising the prices of the industrial goods we import; as long as the anarchy of a monetary economy where the overvalued dollar prevails continues in force; as long as the problems of protectionism, which far from being eliminated are increasingly worsening, are not solved; as long as interest rates remain high, although their present levels experience a modest reduction, Latin America and the Caribbean will not only be unable to develop but shall experience a regression as has been the case in recent years.

Deeply concerned about the problems of Latin American economy and of its foreign debt, I have recently reflected intensively about them as you might be aware. I have made the result of these analyses become known in various documents, some of which I am enclosing; others have not yet been published. In these interviews (with foreign newspapers), I have expressed, with the support of data no one can contradict and of analyses that have not been questioned, my deep conviction that the Latin American debt is unpayable.

As I have said, this does not mean that I believe that this should be the position to be immediately adopted by government representatives in the necessary dialogue between creditors and debtors that I am promoting.

But, eventually, the debt cannot be paid and alternative solutions must be found, some of which I have enunciated in the form of suggestions. My examination has further convinced me that even if the agreement of not paying the debt is reached the problems of Latin America and the Caribbean will not be solved. If other situations stemming from the present international economic order persists, it will be impossible not only to boost the development of the Latin American countries, but not even to mitigate the situation of the 130 million men and women of the continent living under conditions of critical poverty.

If the present situation continues worsening, it is difficult to imagine the further development of the on-going processes of democratic recovery in the continent and even more difficult to imagine the emergence of others. That is why the analysis of the debt must be linked to the promotion of the new international economic order adopted at the United Nations but ignored at the same time, despite the constant demands for global negotiations that the underdeveloped countries continue making.

There is something that becomes increasingly obvious for the responsible personalities and the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean; the solutions that have been imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and that it purports to continue imposing are unacceptable, not only because they do not solve the urgent situation of our countries, but becasue they worsen it. It is, therefore, necessary to conduct broad-based discussions on these issues without any previous conditions or rigid positions; to exchange views with the participation of all the forces that Latin America needs to face this crisis that, because of its characteristics, is more serious than that of the years of the great depression and more decisive than the one that 175 years ago gave rise to the early independence of the Latin American countries.

The problem of the debt involves us all, entrepreneurs and workers, landowners, peasants and agricultural workers, conservatives and radicals. Only the insignificant minority that has always lived and wants to continue living with their backs turned on their countries and at the service of foreign interests, can remain insensitive before this problem.

The rest of us are involved, as Latin American and Caribbean, due to a historic obligation; but also as statesmen, political leaders, entrepreneurs, intellectuals or workers, because the very fate of each of these forces is at stake. Both the results of my own analyses as well as the frutiful exchanges I have recently had with leaders from various sectors of our countries, have led me to conclude that it would be of interest to contribute to reflecting on these problems. It would be a discussion with no other item than the analysis of the Latin American and Caribbean debt in the context of the international economic crisis. The new international economic order and its urgency, a discussion without any background documents or the intention of reaching agreements or conclusions in it, a dialogue that would be both academic and political, professional and popular; an analysis where we could highlight the coincidence of interests on this problem between the entrepreneur and the worker, the Christian and the Communist, men of the left and conservatives; an attempt to try to make the truth that each of us individually believe in become a truth shared by all after the collective analysis of such pressing problems.

I invite you to participate as a prominent personality in the continental meeting that will begin in Havana on the evening of July 30 and continue through July 31 and August 1, 2 and 3.

We hope to have more than 300 representatives of as many political, social and intellectual forces as possible from Latin America and the Caribbean at the meeting without any ideological, religious or class restrictions.

I would appreciate it very much if you could do your best to attend this meeting, for all of us would benefit greatly from hearing your opinions and experiences.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] Fidel Castro Ruz

CASTRO SENDS MESSAGE TO WOMEN"S CONFERENCE

FL160102 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, Cuba's president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has sent a message to the women of all the world who are participating at the UN world conference being held in Nairobi, Kenya. After mentioning Cuba's solidarity with the event and the great hopes the international community has in this women's decade enacted by the United Nations, Fidel describes in his message the difficult situation millions of women are going through in the world at present.

CASTRO CONGRATULATES INTERNATIONALISTS IN ANGOLA

FL151504 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has sent a letter congratulating the members of Cutting and Storage Brigade No 2 of the internationalist Arnaldo Milian Forestry Contingent currently working in the jungles of Maiombe in Angola. Fidel congratulated them because they cut and stored 25,000 cubic feet of lumber in record time.

HAITIANS TO MARCH AGAINST POSSIBLE FRAUD

FL130140 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 12 Jul 85

[Text] Castries -- Haitain youth have announced they will march to the National Palace if the 22 July referendum is revealed as a fraud. In a letter mailed to one of the opposition leaders, the youth express decision to struggle more arduously in order to recuperate their rights. Jean-Claude Duvalier's regime prohibited a youth demonstration planned for 21 June to protest Duvalier's presidency for life. The Haitian youth also say they will not permit the national sovereignty to be debased and ridiculed again by a handful of (?dishonest people).

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POLITICAL ACTIVIST JAILED ON LIBEL CONVICTION

FL121800 Bridgetown CANA in English 0908 GMT 12 Jul 85

[Text] Antiguan lefwing political activist and outspoken editor of the anti-government OUTLET newspaper, Tim Hector, has been jailed for six months on a libel conviction. Hector, who is chairman of the small but militant Antiguan Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM), was arrested and jailed last Monday on his return from an overseas trip. The libel case arose out of an OUTLET article in August 1984 which alleged an unnamed member of the Antiguan cabinet had been arrested in Miami with a suitcase filled with U.S. 2 million dollars in cash. The entire 15-man Antiguan cabinet appeared in court to disclaim the charge and the U.S. Government also denied the allegation. OUTLET, a tabloid published on Fridays, is a staunch critic of the Vere Bird government and its front pages are often dominated by allegations of wrongdoing by officialdom.

Released on Bail

FL121803 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Jul 85

[Text] The leader of the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement is out of jail on bail following sentencing yesterday. Tim Hector was sentenced to 6 months in jail after being convicted of libel charges. He was found guilty of publishing a false statement under the public order act in a front page story of a newspaper in which he is the acting editor.

Government Denies Harassment Charges

FL152137 Bridgetown CANA in English 1744 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] St John's, Antigua, July 15, CANA -- The Antigua and Barbuda Government today rejected claims that it had been harassing the leader of the leftist Antingua Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) and the publisher of the weekly OUTLET newspaper, Tim Hector, or that it had been responsible for his arrest last week. The government was reacting to charges by militant Trinidad and Tobago trade union leader George Weekes and the small Guyana leftist political party, the Working People's Alliance [WPA]. Hector was jailed last Thursday for six months on a libel conviction but was soon released on bail. He had been imprisoned three days earlier for leaving the country on July 5, the day on which judgement in the case was originally due to be handed down. Following is the text of a government statement released by the Information Ministry.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has received messages from the Working People's Alliance in Guyana and George Weekes of the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union in Trinidad and Tobago. Both these messages indicate that the senders are unaware of the facts surrounding the arrest of the ACLM leader Tim Hector last week. Since these messages were released to the public, the government considers it appropriate to respond in public.

First of all, the government wishes to advise the senders of the messages that Antigua and Barbuda is a democratic society where fundamental rights and freedoms are fully respected. The fact that Tim Hector was freed on bail, one day after he was convicted by the court and sentenced to six months in jail, is ample testimony to that fact.

Secondly, the government wishes to point out that it was the court which instructed that Hector be charged for an offence which he committed, and it was the court that sentenced him to imprisonment. Therefore, the messages should be sent to the court, not the government.

Thirdly, the government is astonished that individuals such as George Weekes and organizations such as the WPA, which aspire to leadership, could call for the release of someone who is found guilty of an offence while, at the same time, their voices are quiet when that same person flouts the law by libeling and slandering decent people in the community. The government is left to wonder whether Mr Weekes and the WPA feel that democracy is only acceptable when it benefits their political cronies, but unacceptable when it seeks to protect the rights of others.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda would wish to make it clear that however much Mr Weekes and others may try to create the impression that the government is harassing Tim Hector, the reality is that Hector has libeled many people in the society on a consistent basis, and those people have sought redress in the courts. It is the courts, in the exercise of their duty and in conformity with the law, which have sought to punish Hector for offences committed. Moreover, it is respect by the society, including the government, for the same courts and their decisions that allows Hector to be free on bail even though he was found guilty of a serious offence. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda would urge Mr Weekes and the WPA to be sure of their facts in the future before issuing statements.

DOMINICA

UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES NAMED OPPOSITION SENATORS

FL152147 Bridgetown CANA in English 1930 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, July 15, CANA -- Three unsuccessful candidates at the July 1 general election have been named as opposition senators in Dominica's unicameral parliament. Leader of the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) Michael Douglas announced that former Finance Minister Vic Riviere, ex-Carib Chief Hilary Frederick, and Yvette Barzey, the lone woman election candidate of the DLP, plus former Chairman of the National Youth Council Irving Knight would be the party's four nominated members. Dominica's House of Assembly has 30 members -- 21 are elected and nine senators are appointed. The government has not yet announced its five nominated members.

The selection of two-time loser Riviere followed a recent statement by Douglas that the party was intent on seeking younger candidates and certainly those who have lost for a second time, one can say that's it for them.

Douglas, who was due to hold talks today with President Clarence Seignoret on the appointment of the senators, told reporters that the meeting will now be held tomorrow because of what he called minor problems. Last weekend the DLP said that Douglas had been nominated as opposition leader in parliament. No date has yet been given for the opening of a new session of parliament.

PAYMENTS TO BE STOPPED ON NETHERLANDS BANK LOAN

FL131339 Bridgetown CANA in English 1729 GMT 13 Jul 85

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, July 13, CANA -- Suriname has announced it will stop making payments on a 10-year-old, U.S. 15-million dollar loan from the Dutch Bank ABN (Algemene Bank Nederland).

The 50-million-guilder loan agreement was concluded in 1975, the year Suriname secured its political independence from Holland, for the construction of a railway within the framework of a development project in West Suriname.

Announcing the decision to newsmen here, Finance and Planning Minister Norman Kleine explained that when the West Suriname Development Plan was drawn up, provision of a railway had been considered an essential component of the project. But, he added, the project never got under way and after 1980 it was scrapped to make way for more effective and profitable development programme.

The decision to discontinue the repayments was taken in consultation with the military authority, according to the finance minister.

The minister said that as a result of the decision by the Dutch in January 1975 to suspend compensatory repayments to Suriname, the country is now faced with a scarcity of exchange, and it would be irresponsible to continue financing the loan from the ABN at the expense of the Surinamese people.

After the bloody events in December 1982 when some 15 local leaders were shot dead by the military in a clampdown on government opponents, the Dutch administration withdrew the compensation repayments to Suriname which were supposed to cover 15 years between independence and 1990.

In response to a question, Minister Kleine said the government expected no backlash from its decision to cease repaying the ABN loan, since the bank will call upon the Dutch Government to fulfill its obligations as guarantor for the money.

The minister said the Government of Suriname had offered to deposit the repayments in local currency at a bank in Suriname until such time as the foreign exchange situation made the repayments in foreign currency possible, but this proposal was rejected by the bank.

In the meantime the ABN bank here has granted a U.S. 5-million dollar loan to the Suriname State Oil Company (Staatsolie). The money will be used to finance the importation of goods and services required for the expansion of production facilities at the Tambaredjo oilfield in the Saranacca District, west of Paramaribo. This year Staatsolie hopes to increase production at the field from 1300 to 2000 barrels a day.

Also, towards the end of this year the Suriname Oil Company intends to begin prospecting offshore. The work will be carried out jointly by three U.S. companies and will cover a 500-square-kilometre area off the cost of the Saramacca District.